



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Reference: Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs/Health and Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 10 November 2025

In relation to: Justice Housing Program

Question received: 12 November 2025

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

1. How many people with Public Housing tenancy agreements are currently on remand or in Prison?
2. How many people currently on remand, in Prison or at the Bimberi Youth Justice system would currently be expected to return to a Public Housing tenancy on release?
3. How many people are expected to be released from Prison on 2025-26, who will require Housing assistance on release?
4. How many people were eligible for release from Prison or Youth detention in 2024- 25, whose release was delayed because Public Housing was not available for them?
5. 5. Noting the importance of timely release of prisoners, and seamless transition back to society on the potential for recidivism, do you have case management plans with all prisoners prior to their release?
 - a. When and how are these plans developed?
 - b. Why do we continually hear reports from Official Visitors among others, that transition to housing continues to be an impediment to timely release on remand or at end of sentence?

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As at 19 November 2025, there are 40 tenants that are incarcerated or held in remand in the ACT or interstate prison.
2. There are 20 tenants currently on remand that could return to their public housing property. The exception to this would be where the person under remand has had their tenancy terminated by the ACT Civil Administrative Tribunal due to breaches of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

3. Housing Assistance do not collect this data.
4. Housing Assistance does not collect this data.
5. JACS have a reintegration team that support prisoners for their return to the community.
 - a. In relation to public housing tenants that are sentenced or held in remand, Housing Assistance has Specialist Housing Practitioners that work closely with the tenant about their tenancy whilst they are incarcerated.
 - b. Public housing tenants can return to their properties on release if they have a live tenancy agreement. When release dates are known, the specialist officers will attend pre-release case conferences with their tenants to support the return to their property. Housing ACT endeavours to offer appropriate properties to eligible applicants on the waitlist in a timely manner. For those applying for public housing, wait times and allocation of public housing can be influenced by many factors, including complexity and size of household, property requirements and region preferences, and availability of stock.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

28/11/25

By the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, Ms Yvette Berry MLA