



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No - 36

MARK PARTON MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Ref: Budget Statement G for 2021-22 refers to the \$80 million announced set aside for remedying the backlog of repair requirements for public housing.

1. In relation to the breakdown of the \$80 million:
 - a. How much of this will be assigned to the Total Facilities Management company to resolve the repair backlog;
 - b. How many current housing properties will be repaired from the \$80 million funding to bring them up to standard?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- a. The ACT Government is committed to securing high quality public housing and announced \$80 million over three years in the 2021-22 Budget. The funding will enable Housing ACT to continue to deliver not only maintenance and repairs for a portfolio of more than 11,500 properties, but also kitchen upgrades, domestic and family violence security works, and disability modifications for our tenants.

The budget allocation reflects that while Housing ACT's budget has remained stable at approximately \$40 million a year, the ACT has seen an increase in the diversity of maintenance requests which are due to a range of factors, including expected for older properties in the portfolio, but also an increasingly complex tenant community.

The funding also reflects that as an integrated social housing service provider and model social landlord, Housing ACT incurs costs that many private landlords do not, including additional costs due to COVID and security upgrades.

This initiative builds on the investment of nearly \$1 billion over 10 years to 2025 to secure a high quality and flexible public housing portfolio, and on the \$8.9 million for general property and energy efficiency upgrades for public housing properties under the Expanding investment in social housing initiative in the August 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update.

We are pleased that this funding will support the provision of safe, secure, and affordable homes for public housing tenants, and supports the Government's commitment to provide housing options for all Canberrans.

Housing ACT's contracted total facilities manager, Programmed Facilities Management, is responsible for the maintenance of all public housing, including managing the budget once it has been set and approved by Housing ACT.

Like all properties – public or private - during the COVID-19 lockdown, non-urgent maintenance was paused in compliance with health requirements, but these work orders have since recommenced. All urgent maintenance work was actioned during lockdown.

- b. The funding of \$80 million over three years will enable Programmed to continue to triage maintenance requests based on the urgency of work required while also delivering kitchen upgrades, domestic and family violence security works, and disability modifications for our tenants.

This funding will support the provision of safe, secure, and affordable homes for public housing tenants, and supports the Government's commitment to provide housing options for all Canberrans.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

18/11/21

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Yvette Berry MLA