

Mr Michael Harris
ACT Auditor-General
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Dear Mr Harris

I am writing to raise with you a concern about the administration of the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) program in Housing ACT properties.

Housing ACT registered as an SDA provider in 2017, and in 2020 enrolled 112 dwelling into the program. Despite registering and enrolling properties, Housing ACT has never operationalised SDA.

I was advised in 2023 of complex barriers to operationalising SDA for the now 110 enrolled properties, including that Housing ACT did not hold critical information about whether tenants were NDIS participants and had SDA in their NDIS packages.

In September this year, HCSD notified me that Housing ACT's registration as an SDA provider was due to expire on 14 December 2025 and it must complete a recertification audit to renew its registration. I was also advised that Housing ACT would be unlikely to meet the requirements of the audit.

Despite efforts since 2023 to understand and resolve the issues with SDA, on 7 October I made the decision not to proceed with the recertification audit and renewal process, and to deregister Housing ACT as an SDA provider under the NDIS. Housing ACT's SDA registration will remain until 14 December 2025. The ACT Government is now working with our headlease partners, tenants and stakeholders to determine next steps for these homes, including consideration of whether they can and should be re-registered for SDA.

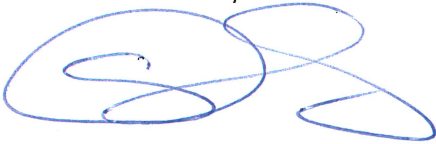
While the decision to de-register will have no direct impact on tenants because SDA was never operationalised, this process has not met my expectations, nor do I think it meets the expectations of the ACT community. I am concerned that HCSD did not adequately implement decisions of government, particularly directions in 2023 and 2024 to engage with tenants in SDA-enrolled properties to understand their SDA status and needs. This inaction meant that my decision to deregister Housing ACT had to be taken without this critical information. It is also not clear to me what authority Housing ACT had to register as an SDA provider in 2017 and enrol dwellings in 2020.

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At **Attachment A** is a summary of events as I understand them. My office is available to assist you with any additional information and documents you need.

I understand and respect your complete discretion in exercising your functions, including whether or not to carry out any particular audit. I would welcome your advice about whether you can audit this matter, and about whether any additional referrals would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Yvette Berry MLA