



# Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Reference: Health and Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 6 August 2025

In relation to: Housing ACT and Vacancy Rate

Question received: 6 August 2025

Answer Due: 21 August 2025

1. Why did the Public Housing occupancy rate drop from 96% to 94% in 2024-25?
2. Why is your target for 2025-26 is only 94%?
3. What would prevent your achievement of a higher occupancy rate?
4. This means around 700 properties are vacant. Wouldn't resolving the vacancy rate issue have a potentially significant impact on the wait list?
5. What would be required to bring the occupancy rate up?

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

1. The public housing occupancy rate increased from 94.3 per cent on 30 June 2024 to 95.1 per cent on 30 June 2025. The difference identified is between the estimated outcome (94%) in the Budget Papers versus the target (96%).
2. The 2025-26 target was published incorrectly at 94% due to an administrative error. The target will remain at 96% for the 2025-26 year. The Health and Community Services Directorate have commenced the process to correct the published version of the target.
3. The occupancy rate can be impacted by the volume of both new properties coming online as well as vacant properties awaiting sale, redevelopment, repairs, and upgrades prior to re-allocation.
4. As of 30 June 2025, 520 Housing ACT properties were vacant.

These properties are vacant as they are awaiting sale, redevelopment, repairs, and upgrades prior to re-allocation. Housing ACT remains committed to ensuring vacant properties are

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worked on and actioned efficiently to ensure those intended for re-allocation return to lettable standard to enable occupation.

5. There are a range of factors, including sale, redevelopment, repairs, and upgrades of properties which influence occupancy rates.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:



Date:

04/09/25

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