



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

Answer to question on notice

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: Public housing waiting list and Applications and assessment

Question received: 6 August 2025

Answer Due: 21 August 2025

1. How many applications for public housing were received by Housing ACT in the 2024–25 financial year?
2. Of the applications received, how many were:
 - Accepted and added to the waiting list;
 - Rejected, and what were the primary reasons for rejection;
 - Pending as of 30 June 2025 (i.e. received but not yet assessed)?
3. How many of the applications were for placement on the Priority Housing Register?
 - How many were successful?
 - How many were rejected, and what were the reasons?
 - Specifically, how many applicants for the Priority Housing Register were rejected on the grounds that they could not demonstrate an ‘ability to sustain a tenancy’?
 - What are the criteria used to assess ‘ability to sustain a tenancy’?
 - What support is offered to applicants assessed as unable to sustain a tenancy to help them become eligible in the future, or to meet their housing needs in the meantime?
4. What was the average time taken to assess a new public housing application in 2024– 25?

Waiting list dynamics

5. How many new households were added to the waiting list during 2024–25?
6. How many households exited the public housing waiting list in 2024–25, and for what reasons?
 - Please provide a breakdown (e.g. housed, no longer eligible, withdrew, could not be contacted, passed away, moved interstate, etc.).
7. How many existing public housing tenants were transferred to another property in 2024–25, and what were the reasons for those transfers (e.g. downsizing, accessibility needs, redevelopment, safety)?

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

1. In 2024-25 1,783 applications were received.
2. Of the applications received, how many were:
 - Accepted and added to the waiting list:
 - 888 were approved and added to the waitlist register
 - Rejected, and what were the primary reasons for rejection:
 - 542 were cancelled.
 - further breakdown is not possible within the given time frame.
 - Pending as of 30 June 2025 (i.e. received but not yet assessed):
 - 130 were pending.
3. In 2024-25, 72 applications were considered for priority housing.
 - All 72 applications were successful.
 - 0 applications were cancelled.
 - 0 applicants for the Priority Housing Register were rejected.
 - The criteria used to assess ‘ability to sustain a tenancy’ is: pay rent on time, look after the property, be a responsible neighbour.
 - Assessing Officers will liaise with an applicant’s supports (if permitted to do so) and work with the applicant and their supports to develop a comprehensive support plan detailing assistance provided.
 - If no supports are engaged, Assessing Officers will provide information to the applicant for relevant services or in exceptional circumstances- and if the applicant agrees- make referrals on the applicant’s behalf to appropriate services.

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- If the applicant is considered more suitable for homelessness programs, supports can include tenancy and property management and full wrap around supports.
4. In 2024-25, on average it took 27 days to assess a new public housing application.
 5. In 2024-25, 888 were approved and added to the waitlist register.
 6. In 2024-25, 902 applications were cancelled as at 30 June 2025. This number includes applications that were submitted prior to 2024-25 financial year.

It is not possible to provide data on the reasons for the applications being cancelled within the given time frame.

7. In 2024–25, 355 households were transferred within public housing:

It is not possible to provide data on the reasons within the given time frame. Reasons for transfer requests may include:

- disability/mobility reasons
- property requirements have changed
- safety issues (Domestic, Family Violence or other)
- community harmony
- maintenance/repairs/fire
- other (for example: mental health, legal).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:



Date:

29/08/25

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