



SELECT COMMITTEE ON COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE ACT
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair)
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS on Wednesday 12 April 2023: LOUISE GILDING took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript Wednesday 12 April 2023, PAGE 113

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: We have got Dr Paterson on a supplementary—if you would not mind, Ms Gilding—and then Ms Lawder.

DR PATERSON: We heard evidence this morning from YWCA about—just raised the concern with our numbers of planned housing and then the federal government’s housing plan. They just wanted assurances that there would be no conflation between the two; that our number would stay at the delivery of 400.

Ms Berry: Yes. Absolutely. I can absolutely confirm that again; that our numbers will not go down, and we have always said “at least”, and if we can add more to that within our own government’s priorities and budget commitments, and that the federal government’s funding for housing across the country will be in addition to that, keeping in mind that it is a challenging space at the moment for construction for everybody, and that is meaning that things are taking a little bit longer than we would like.

THE CHAIR: Ms Lawder?

MS LAWDER: Can I just check where we got to with that question on notice?

THE CHAIR: I do not believe it was being taken on notice.

Ms Gilding: Perhaps I could suggest what information could be readily provided. Would that be okay for the committee?

MS LAWDER: That is not my question.

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Ms Gilding: May I make a suggestion?

THE CHAIR: Please make a suggestion.

Ms Gilding: Look, we do have information about expressed demand that we see on the waitlist, and so perhaps we could give you that information. We use that information to calibrate what we are building, which is why we know we need to build Class C. We know that we have a greater demand from single people on the waiting list, and so therefore we build two-bedroom units, mostly, in terms of the major construction program; whereas we will potentially be, you know, spot buying or acquiring the larger houses.

So, perhaps I could take on notice to provide some information for the committee about what we are seeing in terms of the expressed demand on the waitlist.

REBECCA VASSAROTTI: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Housing ACT is dedicated to building adaptable properties that meet the needs of all individuals, including those with a disability. Adaptable housing ensures that people of all ages and abilities can live within the home, and it can be easily adapted to meet changing household needs without requiring costly or substantial modifications. Delivering more adaptable housing is part of the ongoing commitment to renew the public housing portfolio and realign its built form with contemporary tenant demand.

Almost 60 per cent of public housing households include at least one occupant aged 55 years old or older and delivering adaptable housing supports our tenants to age in place, without need for costly modifications or relocation due to a property no longer meeting their needs.

Below is the demand on properties, noting Housing ACT do not build 1-bedroom properties. A 2-bedroom property would be the entitlement.

As of Monday 17 April 2023	Total	Number of bedrooms				
		1	2	3	4	5+
Demand (Current)		Household counts by bedroom entitlement				
All applications	4,174	2,579	845	502	195	53
		62%	20%	12%	5%	1%
Housing applications – Housing Register (HR)	3,149	2,133	567	331	94	24
		68%	18%	11%	3%	1%
Priority HR applications	142	46	32	37	25	2
		32%	23%	26%	18%	1%
Transfer applications – Transfer Register (TR)	1,025	446	278	171	101	29
		44%	27%	108%	10%	3%
Priority TR applications	220	83	64	39	31	3
		38%	29%	18%	14%	1%

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT

Signature: 

Date: 24/4/2023

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA