



Ms Chiaka Barry MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs
ACT Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Barry

PETITION RECEIVED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Keep the Rent Relief Fund

Standing order No. 99A of the ACT Legislative Assembly requires that a petition or e-petition with at least 500 signatories from residents/citizens of the Australian Capital Territory shall be referred to the relevant Assembly standing committee for consideration.

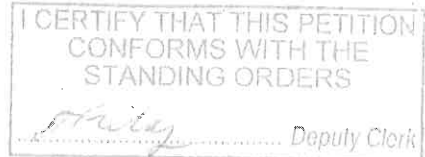
Attached please find a copy of the terms of petition E-PET-040-25 lodged by Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, and received by the Assembly on 2 September 2025.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the office of the Member who lodged the petition.

Yours sincerely

Tom Duncan
Clerk

2 September 2025



ACT Legislative Assembly E-Petition

Petition Number: E-PET-040-25
Subject: Keep the Rent Relief Fund
Closing Date: 2025-09-01
Sponsoring Member: Rattenbury, Shane
Principal Petitioner: Mr Geoffrey Buchanan

Number of Signatures: 863

**TO: The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly for
the Australian Capital Territory**

The following residents of the ACT draw the attention of the Assembly to the ongoing need for the Rent Relief Fund as a carefully targeted, means tested, and highly effective source of cost-of-living relief and housing support for the most vulnerable people within our community.

The Rent Relief Fund was a lifeline for vulnerable ACT residents, providing grants of up to 4 weeks rent (up to \$2,500) to households experiencing rental stress or severe financial hardship.

Since its launch in April 2023, the fund provided over 1,500 grants (an average of two grants per day) at a modest annual cost of \$1.7 million. Despite proven impact and ongoing need, the scheme was permanently closed on 4 July 2025. Data shows that the ACT is one of, if not the most unaffordable private rental markets for low-income households.

The ACT has the highest rate of rental stress among Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients, with over half paying more than 30% of their income on rent and over a quarter paying more than 50% of their income on rent.

Additionally, there is a shortfall of 5,400 social and affordable dwellings, and public housing wait times exceed five years. The Rent Relief Fund has played a critical role in helping vulnerable ACT residents keep a roof over their heads.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the Assembly to call on the ACT Government to reinstate the Rent Relief Fund through the provision of funding in the 2025-26 ACT Budget, and to commit to its continuation for as long as there is evidence that it is needed to support the most vulnerable people in our community to keep a roof over their heads.