



## Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality

Minister for Tertiary Education

Minister for Tourism and Special Events

Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment

Member for Kurrajong

Hon Luke Howarth MP  
Assistant Minister for Community Housing,  
Homelessness and Community Services  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister <sup>Luke</sup>

I am writing to provide you the ACT Government's 2018-19 Statement of Assurance under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (the Agreement).

I note the template statement of assurance provided by your office. However, the information being requested in the template is beyond the scope of the reporting requirements as set out under Part 4 of the Agreement.

The ACT Government has satisfied the requirements set out in clause 17 ('Outputs'), clause 46 ('General Funding') and clause 49 ('Homelessness Funding') under the Agreement. The ACT Housing Strategy was released in October 2018. I confirm that it meets the social housing and homelessness components under clause 17 of the Agreement.

In 2018-19 the ACT Government allocated \$22.7 million of Commonwealth funding and the ACT matched contribution of \$1.6 million to deliver services to support people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In 2019-20 the ACT Government estimates that \$23.3 million of Commonwealth funding and the ACT's matched contribution of \$1.7 million will be allocated to homelessness services. This funding is allocated to the following priority groups under the National Homelessness and Housing Agreement as follows:

Homelessness Cohorts	2018-19 Actual (\$m)	2019-20 Estimated (\$m)
Women and children affected by family and domestic violence	\$3.34	\$3.63
Children and Young people	\$5.25	\$5.50
Indigenous Australians	\$1.17	\$1.20

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People experiencing repeat homelessness	\$4.37	\$4.58
People exiting institutions and care into homelessness	\$0.99	\$1.05
Older people	\$0.40	\$0.47

The above funding reflects those programs that are specifically targeted to the priority cohorts. The remaining Commonwealth and ACT matched funding goes to a broader range of general homelessness support programs as well as programs focussing on early intervention, prevention for people who are at risk of homelessness.

Two new homelessness services supporting older women and asylum seekers with uncertain immigration status commenced in June 2019. The first service will provide dedicated early intervention support for older women at risk of homelessness, particularly those who are approaching retirement, or have retired, with limited financial resources, and who need housing support. The second service aims to prevent families with uncertain immigration status from entering short-term crisis accommodation through provision of medium term accommodation and supports to enable people to sustain accommodation longer term. It targets women and families whose main issue is lack of income and who are at risk of falling into crisis and homelessness without appropriate intervention.

In 2018-19 \$3.2 million in Commonwealth funding was allocated to social housing and an estimated \$3.7 million will be allocated in 2019-20. The ACT allocated \$354.2 million of state-own revenue on social housing. In 2019-20 the ACT will allocate an estimated \$367.7 million.

The Government has recently released Housing ACT's Growing and Renewing Public Housing 2019-24, a plan to manage the public housing portfolio over the next five years, building on the renewal of 1,288 homes through the recent public housing renewal program. This plan guides the new investment of \$100 million with targets to grow and renew public housing so that our portfolio meets current and future tenant needs, and incorporates our existing salt and pepper approach. 1,200 new homes will be delivered, including an additional 200 homes to grow the public housing portfolio and provide homes for more households in need, and renewing more than 1,000 of our older inefficient homes to help improve quality of life for our tenants.

I note that the ACT's Community Services Directorate and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate annual reports will be provided to the Commonwealth upon their release in accordance with the ACT's bilateral agreement. These reports will contain additional information on the ACT's social housing and homeless programs.

I trust the above information meets the ACT's reporting obligations under the Agreement that I signed on 12 June 2018.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA  
Treasurer

Cc: Treasurer, The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP

25 OCT 2019