



John Hargreaves MLA

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR HOUSING
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSING CHANGES ASSIST THOSE MOST IN NEED

The Stanhope Government has today announced further changes to public housing, to ensure housing is allocated to those in the most urgent and immediate need.

The ACT Minister for Housing, John Hargreaves, said the major change affects households receiving a gross income of more than \$80,000 per annum – calculated over two consecutive years and sustainable in the longer term.

“One of the Government’s priorities is to assist tenants on higher, sustainable incomes to move to private home ownership or private rental,” Mr Hargreaves said.

“These are households that have moved beyond requiring rental assistance. Their incomes are far in excess of current income eligibility to enter public housing, and enough to rent or purchase an adequate home in the ACT.

“The changes mean we can more efficiently achieve what public housing is all about: housing people who can’t afford to secure their own home in the current market.

“Tenants will have access to assistance from shared equity schemes announced last week in the Affordable Housing Strategy. This will allow tenants who are unable to borrow the full value of their current rental property to share the benefits of home ownership.

“Changes will be phased in over the next few years. After maintaining an income of \$80,000 for two years, tenants will be given 12 months to decide whether to purchase their current public housing property, or pursue options in the private market.

“The capital raised through the ‘sale to tenant’ program will be reinvested in public housing stock and vacated properties re-allocated to applicants on the public housing waiting list.”

Mr Hargreaves stressed, however, that Housing ACT would give careful consideration to tenant circumstances.

“We will work closely with tenants to ensure that we fully understand their needs” he said. “For some tenants such a move might not be appropriate.

“This could be because equivalent housing is not available privately (e.g. houses with substantial disability modifications), or because it is not possible, or reasonable for tenants to take out a home loan because of their age or other personal circumstances.

ACT Government

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“Across all income levels there are tenants who need the stability public housing provides for their wellbeing, certainly in regard to issues such as schooling, support networks and employment.

“Those households with gross incomes above \$50,000 will also be encouraged to consider shared equity and ‘sale to tenant’ opportunities.”

Statement Ends

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