



John Hargreaves MLA

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MINISTER FOR HOUSING

MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

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SHORTER WAITING TIMES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Minister for Housing, John Hargreaves, today announced changes that will increase utilisation of Housing ACT properties and lead to shorter waiting lists.

“As family circumstances change tenants often have more bedroom accommodation than they need,” Mr Hargreaves said. “Housing ACT will be working with these tenants to assist them into more appropriate housing.

“The Government believes it is important to assist as many eligible people as possible into public housing. It is highly expensive to purchase or build properties with five or six bedrooms in particular. With this change, we’ll be better able to address the needs of those on the waiting list, particularly families with children.

“We will work closely with tenants, recognising that this is a process that will take a number of years to complete. It will be directed to those tenants with a significant over-allocation (two bedrooms or more above allocation).

“This process will include careful consideration of tenants’ circumstances, including length of time in the current home, their age, their on-going housing and support needs (including part-time child custody arrangements) and the availability of suitable alternative public housing accommodation.

“Our approach will be to work collaboratively with tenants to discuss options and identify attractive alternatives.”

Mr Hargreaves said this and other changes to public housing announced today follow extensive consultation.

“Tenant consultation and participation is very important to our decision making, and these changes were informed by the Tenant Forums and Housing Summit that were held last year, and the Joint Champions Group, a representative group of housing tenants it meets with regularly.”

Detailed guidelines will be developed in further consultation with tenants, the community and Housing workers.

Mr Hargreaves said public housing tenants have been informed of the changes by letter today and briefings undertaken with the tenant participation group and the community sector.

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Caitlin Bessell 6205 0145 Mobile 0434 605 614 caitlin.bessell@act.gov.au

ACT Government

Phone (02) 6205 0020 Fax (02) 6205 0495