

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 5**

11 April 2025

Question No. 342

SHANE RATTENBURY MLA: To ask the Attorney-General

1. Given the announcement that the rent relief fund will be discontinued on 30 June, what assistance will be available to private renters experiencing rental stress or financial hardship.
2. How does the discontinuance fit within the ACT Government's stated cost of living priority for this year's budget.
3. Given that Treasurer recently presented the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Levy Bill 2025, and according to the ACT Budget forward estimates, this levy will provide the Government with revenue of \$3.8 million in 2025-26, and given that the Rent Relief Fund is to be discontinued on 30 June, what consideration has been given to directing a proportion of this new and ongoing revenue stream towards supporting Canberra's most vulnerable private renters through ongoing funding of the Rent Relief Fund.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Government has a range of assistance measures to assist private renters, including:
 - a. The Electricity, Gas and Water Rebate, which provides eligible households, including renters, with a rebate on their electricity bills (\$800 in 2024-25).
 - b. The Rental Bond Loan program provides interest free loans of up to 100 per cent of the bond, repayable over a period of up to two years.
 - c. The Renters' Home Energy Program and the Home Energy Efficiency Program, which provide eligible households, including renters experiencing financial hardship, with free and practical advice to help reduce energy and water use and save on energy and water bills.

2. The ACT Government will set out its actions relating to the cost-of-living wellbeing priority in the 2025-26 Budget, to be released in June 2025.
3. Revenue from the Short-term Rental Accommodation Levy will contribute to the funding available to the ACT Government to provide services and infrastructure to benefit the ACT community. It is not hypothecated for a particular purpose.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General**

Date:.....13/5/25

This response required 1hr to complete, at an approximate cost of \$149.04.