

**Yvette Berry MLA**

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 6****Friday, 9 May 2025****Question No. 371****Mr. Emerson MLA:** To ask the Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

1. Given the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) website states that almost 41 percent of Canberrans eligible for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) do not have access to SDA housing currently, what is the Government doing to ensure those Canberrans can access SDA.
2. What plans does the Government have, and on what timeline, to access and use the significant pool of Federal Government funding available to deliver SDA through Housing ACT.
3. Given that a fully accessible four-bedroom house costs approximately 67 percent more than a standard home to build, will Housing ACT consider providing SDA for people above the income threshold for social housing, given the near impossibility of accessing SDA in the private rental market.

**Yvette Berry MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1, 2 &amp; 3.

The ACT Government is committed to improving access, choice and affordability of housing in the ACT for all Canberrans, including for people with disability. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review and the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) final reports both highlighted the need for reforms to housing for people with disability, including in crisis and supported accommodation. The ACT Government is considering its role in SDA as part of a broader project to look at policy settings for improving housing outcomes for people with disability in the ACT in the context of the findings and recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review.



In parallel to the ACT Government consideration of SDA, the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program is expanding the availability of public housing homes with accessible and adaptable features that can meet the needs of people with a range of abilities and ages. To date March 2025, 749 homes have been delivered designed to the Gold Liveable Housing Design Guidelines or Adaptable Class C standards. Additionally, 52 purchases have met these standards bringing the total to 801 dwellings delivered or purchased. Housing ACT estimates over 90 percentage of the dwellings delivered under the program will meet these standards. By the end of the Program, Housing ACT estimates 13 percent of its portfolio will be adaptable or accessible.

In addition to the delivery of accessible housing, Housing ACT tenant are able to access the support of occupational therapists. Occupational therapists work closely with tenants, families and carers to understand needs, to support property modifications which in turn supports wellbeing, improved liability and ensures tenants are supported to age in place.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

  
**Yvette Berry MLA**  
**Minister for Homes and New Suburbs**

Date: 28/05/25

This response required 65 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$109.47.