

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**Questions on Notice Paper No 8**  
**Friday, 27 June 2025**  
**Question No. 524**

**MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for Homes and New Suburbs —

1. What is ACT Housing’s policy on young people living in ACT Government housing with a parent when the parent is on the lease and the young person is not, and whether the young person can assume the lease in situations when the parent departs from the property (for example they must move interstate)?
2. Are factors like the young person having no other housing option and being on a low income taken into account in deciding if the young person can take over the lease under the circumstances referred to in part (1)?

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

1. Housing ACT provides temporary housing assistance to a young person who remains in a public housing property when their parent stops living in the property because their parent:
  - a. has died
  - b. is physically unable to live in the property
  - c. is legally unable to live in the property
  - d. no longer wishes to live in the property.

In these situations, the young person has six weeks to apply for public housing. If found eligible for assistance, the young person is offered a new tenancy agreement.

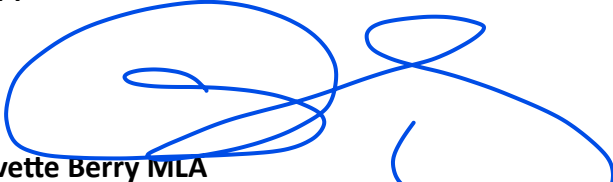
Only young people over the age of 16 can apply for ongoing housing assistance. Housing ACT can link young tenants and tenants with specific needs to specialist services, as appropriate. Housing ACT works with Children, Youth and Families in the case of an unaccompanied minor (i.e. under the age of 16).

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2. Eligibility criteria for ACT public housing are set out in clause 9 of the Housing Assistance (Public rental Housing Assistance) Program 2023 (No 1). Low income is one element of eligibility criteria.

Clause 10 of the same Instrument allows for all eligibility criteria (other than the requirement to be at least 16 years old) to be disregarded if the Housing Commissioner is satisfied that the person is suffering severe hardship that cannot be alleviated by any other means.

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



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

**Date:** 16/07/25

This response required 33 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$58.48.