Gerald McCarthy
Minister for Housing and Community Development

$15 Million Injection into Remote Housing

20 November 2016

The Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy today announced $15 million will be fast-tracked to improve remote housing under the Labor Government’s infrastructure plan.

The investment kick-starts Labor’s 2016 election commitment, with an additional $5 million to increase repairs and maintenance for remote housing and an extra $10 million for the Room to Breathe program this financial year.

Minister McCarthy said adding living, sleeping and cooking spaces to houses - which the Room to Breathe program does - will reduce pressures of overcrowding to allow families to continue to live together, and create local jobs.

“The Labor Government recognises that good housing is critical to influence the health and wellbeing of people living in overcrowded conditions,” Minister McCarthy said.

“During the election campaign, I heard time and time again across the Territory how much people are looking forward to the Room to Breathe program in their community.

“We will use a community approach with local people guiding the decision making, doing the work and being supported by government.

“We have been talking to Aboriginal organisations and local businesses to identify who has the capacity to take on this project in their community.

“We want to put control back into the hands of local people and let communities drive what work needs to be done.”

Labor will invest a record $1.1 billion over 10-years in a remote housing program to improve housing outcomes for Territorians.

“This is a big construction program – it will create hundreds of Territory jobs and provide support for local businesses,” Minister McCarthy said.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has begun to assess which communities have the highest needs to upgrade their housing.
The Labor Government has been talking with organisations from across the Territory.

“We have listened to their calls to bring the housing program forward and are focused on creating jobs in the Territory where businesses and families are doing it tough,” Minister McCarthy said.

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