MEDIA RELEASE

Nicole Manison
Shadow Minister for Public and Affordable Housing

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Housing cash grab hurts battlers

The CLP Government has once again broken their promises to reduce to cost of living by increasing rents for many public housing tenants by around $200 a week.

Shadow Public and Affordable Housing Minister Nicole Manison said this is another blow for Territorians in public housing who already struggle to make ends meet.

“In another heartless cash grab, the CLP Government are delivering massive rents increases for many public housing tenants already at the brink,” Ms Manison said.

“So far we have seen examples of weekly rent increasing for tenants from $310 to $520 – that is an extra $210 a week people who are already struggling need to find.

“That’s $11000 a year more, and when we add on PowerWater increases, that’s around $13000 extra per year for exactly the same service.

Tenants understand that rents go up, but to increase them by over $200 a week in one hit is unreasonable, heartless and will break many of the Territory families.

“The largest increase we have seen so far is $220 per week with some rents doubled. If a private real estate agent doubled rent with one months notice there would be an outcry. It is even worse when it is a Government turning against the most vulnerable.

“There is simply no way many families will be able to accommodate an extra $13000. The CLP Government has broken more promises to these Territorians already doing it tough.

“The CLP Government is trying to push people out of public housing into the private market at a time when there is limited rental accommodation and limited affordable rental options. Public housing is being used as a cash cow by the CLP Government and is going backwards.

“The CLP used the Housing Department as a human shield. These letters went out on Friday with not a word from the responsible Minister Peter Chandler.”

Nicole Mansion encouraged any tenants who had queries over their increase or concerns over their capacity to pay it should contact their local ALP electorate office. Ms Manison assured tenants that their situation would be kept confidential.

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