Minister for Housing, Peter Chandler, said today less than 10% of nearly 500 public housing tenants asked to provide up-to-date income details have done so.

“It is unfortunate that most of the tenants who received a letter giving them an opportunity to send in their income details did not. They are clearly happy to pay rent based on the market rates for the area.”

Mr Chandler said a letter was sent to tenants who were deemed to be ineligible for public housing. The letter outlined the new rent to be paid based on available income records. However, the letter invited tenants to supply up-to-date details if their circumstances had changed or they believed the new rent was higher than 30% of their income.

“A total of 497 letters were sent to tenants but so far only 42 tenants have sent their income details back and most of these will pay 30% of their household income rather than the full market rate.

“It is only fair if people are earning reasonable incomes that they should pay fair rent, especially when there are 3000 people on the waiting list.

“As a government we have a duty to provide housing for Territorians most in need, many of the tenants have been getting subsidised rents for years with rent increases limited to $20 a year under the former Labor government.

“Over time some tenants have become ineligible as their circumstances have changed and their household will be paying a lower proportion of their income in rent than lower income eligible tenants.

“Some are earning more than people paying rents in the private sector.”

Mr Chandler said any tenant who felt their rental adjustment is more than 30% of their income should contact their tenancy manager.

Media Contact:
Judith Hughey 8928 6619 or 0409 863 383