Northern Territory Housing Strategy Consultation Draft open for public comment

9 December 2015

Developing a housing system that meets the needs of today and tomorrow in both urban and remote communities is the focus of a Housing Strategy Consultation Draft released today for public comment.

Housing Minister Bess Price said the Northern Territory Government was reviewing its suite of housing supply and assistance programs and had conducted a series of stakeholder consultation forums over the past six months to identify potential policy improvements.

“Safe, secure and affordable housing is fundamental to the wellbeing of Territorians. We recognise that housing is the basis from which people engage with community, it supports them in their work lives and in their social and recreational activities.

“I had the opportunity to sit in on some of the consultation sessions to hear first-hand the housing issues facing Territorians. We have released this document to seek further input into an issue that impacts on all Territorians right across the Territory” the Minister said.

Chief Minister Adam Giles encouraged Territorians to provide input into the process and have their say on the consultation draft.

“The Northern Territory Government has worked hard to bring the cost of housing down through initiatives such as our record land release program and the Real Housing for Growth plan for key workers and low to middle income Territorians.

“This Housing Strategy Consultation Draft identifies the principles of a good housing system and responses to improve the way we do things in the housing system.

“Discussions so far have enabled us to identify current issues but most importantly to think differently on how we deliver housing in a remote context and for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to support those who need housing most.
“Our non-government organisations do a great job in supporting those who need housing and support services and consultations so far have told us that we should work more closely with NGOs to deliver a client-centred cost-effective housing system.

NT Shelter Executive Officer Tammy White says “We are excited about the release of the draft and are keen to continue working collaboratively with all key stakeholders on the housing reform to ensure that housing needs of the most vulnerable in our community are met. This includes people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those on low incomes who struggle to pay their rent and make ends meet.”

Minister Price said “We know that for too long we have looked at the various components of the housing continuum in isolation. An innovative approach is one that enables us to view the system as a whole and to move the whole system forward to cater for Territorians and their varied housing needs.”

The consultation draft and details on how to submit feedback are available at www.housing.nt.gov.au Submissions close on Friday 5 February 2016.

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