LABOR HOUSING PROGRAM MEANS THOUSANDS OF NEW ROOMS FOR TERRITORIANS

Labor Leader Michael Gunner today said a Labor Government will focus five housing programs into remote Territory communities to ensure more rooms are available for thousands of Territorians.

“We will introduce 5 focused housing programs:

1. HomeBuild NT: A direct Territory Government investment in building new housing, living space and rooms in remote communities. These funds will be additional to the Australian Government's commitment through the national partnership. Labor will provide $500 million over 10 years from Territory infrastructure budgets to pay for this program.

2. An additional $20 million per year of Territory Government infrastructure funds in repairs and maintenance of houses.

3. Labor will introduce a new program called Room To Breathe NT. This program will fast track the building of rooms, ‘granny flats’ and spaces designed to provide more living space, sleeping spaces and shelter for remote Territorians. The program will include outdoor living and cooking areas. $20 million per year will be provided from 2017-18 onwards. Once underway this program is expected to provide around 200 more living areas and sleeping spaces each year.

4. An expanded Government employee housing program that is accessible by locally recruited remote Government employees. Labor will provide $20 million per year additionally to support this initiative.

5. An expanded Homelands Extra funding program. Labor will lift the program to $6000 per eligible family per year and reform the eligibility criteria.”

Michael Gunner said that Labor’s program was focused on increasing the number of rooms available to people across the Territory.

“Our new construction program in Home Build NT and in the Government Employee Housing program is designed to provide new, appropriately designed houses.

“The repairs and maintenance program will allow Territorians to live in houses that are not falling down around them.

“Most excitingly, our Room To Breathe program will see a Labor Government working with communities to build ‘granny flats’ expand verandah and outdoor sleeping spaces and to provide healthy outdoor eating and living areas to free up space inside housing for people to sleep,” Michael Gunner said.

“If we do not provide more housing and more space to sleep for Territorians living in remote communities we will never overcome the health, education and employment gaps in those places.”

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