Bess Price
Minister for Housing

$140m boost for urban housing

24 May 2016

The Country Liberals Government has made an unprecedented commitment to the Territory’s social housing future with a Budget allocation of more than $140 million over the next 5 years.

The funding will support the development of a sustainable housing system with the construction of new dwellings in needy communities and a major program to upgrade existing stock, as well as vital support for the homeless.

This investment has been informed by extensive community consultation as part of the Government’s housing review process launched in June last year.

The Government listened to community concern that not enough was being done to support the Territory’s most vulnerable.

Housing Minister Bess Price said her government would create a sustainable urban housing system with a $101 million program to refresh public housing.

Another $17.6 million had been set aside for 250 new social housing head leases over the next five years. These properties would be sourced through an open competitive process and would target existing dwellings.

Minister Price said the Government was supporting the sustained well-being of people with a “transformational” approach to tenancy management.

The Country Liberals were adopting a client-centric approach that would improve early intervention and prevention programs with strong links to support providers in housing, homelessness and other human services, she said.

Other key social housing initiatives in the Budget include:

• Establishment of a cross-government working group – with representation from the not-for-profit sector - to lead service delivery responses for the homeless.

• $250,000 over the next 12 months to scope visitor accommodation centres in Darwin and Katherine.

• $2.4 million over the next 12 months to support the continued operation of established housing support centres - Apmere Mwerre and Stuart Lodge - in Alice Springs.
$2 million over the next two years for a Homelessness and Housing Support Innovation Fund to enable NGOs to innovate and trial new housing solutions in the Territory.

Minister Price said the Country Liberals Government was committed to supporting and working with the community housing sector.

“In this regard, we will be transferring 100 government-owned dwellings to the community housing sector to boost its borrowing capacity and, in turn, enable it to construct more housing and to better use these resources,” she said.

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