Kezia Purick
Shadow Housing Minister
Media Release

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BIG BUCKS FOR BUILDING

The Territory Opposition wants the Henderson Government to explain why it will spend $511,000 constructing a 4 bedroom home in Malak under the Commonwealth’s social housing program.

“Half a million dollars should get taxpayer’s a lot more than a single 4 bedroom family home,” says Kezia Purick, Shadow Minister for Housing.

“Half a million dollars is the type of cost one expects to hear about building homes in the bush, not in the suburbs of Darwin.

“The money doesn’t include the cost of the land, the tender is just for the design and construction of the house.

The real estate section of the NT News, on Saturday the 4th of July, carried an offer from a TCA award winning builder to build a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, double garage, landscaped home with fencing, air-conditioning throughout and a pool for $364,000.

“The responsible Minister must explain why this house will be so expensive to construct.

“I was also surprised to hear the Federal Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, tell the Property Council Dry Season luncheon today that 96 houses had been built under the SIHIP program in the Northern Territory during the last two years.

“The Federal Minister for Housing must be the only responsible Government Minister not to be aware that SIHIP hasn’t built a single house in the NT since being announced 2 years ago.

“I hope the Minister might take the time to get better informed about housing matters before she next visits the Territory.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976