



ACT
Government

Community Services

(Ref: CSD 16/14)

S41 FOI Act 1989

Dear **S41 FOI Act 1989**

I refer to your application under the ACT *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the FOI Act), received by the Directorate on 23 February 2015, in which you sought access to the following information:

"...I am wanting to understand how the ACT Government currently supports people with disability with housing, specifically:

- How many people with disability live in a supported accommodation or group home service that is provided directly by Disability ACT?*
- How many properties (houses/apartments/dwellings) are used to provide this supported accommodation?*
- How many of these dwellings are owned by the ACT Government (Housing ACT or Disability ACT), rented from private landlords, or provided through other ownership arrangements?*
- How many ACT Government owned housing properties are leased to non-government providers to deliver supported accommodation or group home services?*
- How many people with disability live in an ACT Government owned housing property are leased to non-government providers to deliver supported accommodation or group home services?*
- How many ACT Government owned housing properties are leased to disability service providers to deliver 'respite' services?*

Note: This request does not include any housing that is provided by Housing ACT directly to people with disability as public housing tenants – only housing that is being used for specialist accommodation services or respite services."

Under the FOI Act, section 22, I am an officer authorised to make a decision in respect of a request for information.

The NDIS will provide individualised support for eligible people with a permanent and significant disability, their families and carers within the non-government sector. The Scheme (NDIS) was introduced in July 2013 in response to the need for reform of disability services across Australia.

Disability ACT is currently phasing its services to the private sector and is due to have transferred all services by 30 June 2017.

Decision

In response to each of the six dot points raised in your request, the relevant information along with explanatory notes has been provided below. The information provided is correct as at 2 March 2016, the statistical information changes on a daily basis as result of the transitioning of services to the private sector.

Points 1-3:

1. *How many people with disability live in a supported accommodation or group home service that is provided directly by Disability ACT?;*
2. *How many properties (houses/apartments/dwellings) are used to provide this supported accommodation?; and*
3. *How many of these dwellings are owned by the ACT Government (Housing ACT or Disability ACT), rented from private landlords, or provided through other ownership arrangements?*

As of the 2 March 2016, Disability ACT supported 80 people with a disability across 29 properties. Housing ACT (Community Services Directorate, ACT Government) owns all 29 properties.

Point 4:

How many ACT Government owned housing properties are leased to non-government providers to deliver supported accommodation or group home services?

Housing ACT currently lease 733 properties to non-government organisations through the Housing Asset Assistance Program (HAAP). These properties are head leased to community organisations which provide a range of services including supported accommodation and group homes.

Point 5:

- *How many people with disability live in an ACT Government owned housing property are leased to non-government providers to deliver supported accommodation or group home services?*

Housing ACT does not collect data on how many people with disability live in Housing ACT owned properties leased to non-government providers to deliver supported accommodation or group home services.

Point 6:

- *How many ACT Government owned housing properties are leased to disability service providers to deliver 'respite' services?*

Housing ACT does not lease their properties for the specific purpose of 'respite' services.

Further information

I would like to refer you to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) which publishes disability related statistics for each Australian State and Territory. AIHW may have further information which may assist in your research. The AIHW website is www.aihw.gov.au.

Review rights

My decision is reviewable under the Act. This means that if you are dissatisfied with this outcome you have a right to seek a review under section 59 of the Act. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by the Directorate. If you wish to seek a review you should write to:

Executive Director
Service Strategy and Community Building
Community Services Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You have 28 days from the day you receive this notification to seek a review of the outcome or such other period as the Executive Director permits.

Under section 54 of the Act, if you are concerned about the processing of your request or related administrative matters, you may make a complaint to the Ombudsman, who may conduct an independent investigation into your complaint. There is no fee for this, and the contact details are as follows:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Online FOI Policy

Please be aware that under the ACT Government's Online FOI Publication Policy, information released to FOI Applicants may be released on the internet.

Please note that personal information will not be made available under this policy. A de-identified letter will be uploaded on to the Open Government website.

A copy of the policy, with details about what information may be published on the internet, is available online at: http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact Lisa Guteridge on 6205 3296.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Saballa". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Melanie Saballa
Director, Service Strategy

29 March 2016