

# ACT Statement of Priorities

## 1. For the NHIF CT what are the Priority Investment Areas for your jurisdiction?

### ***Priority Area 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people***

The ACT Government is committed to decreasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on providing culturally appropriate crisis and transitional housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing family violence.

It is also committed to strengthening and growing the community-controlled sector in the ACT.

### ***Priority Area 2: People with disability***

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring people with disability, if at risk of homelessness, can access disability informed services including emergency, crisis and temporary accommodation. There is a lack of crisis and transitional housing suitable for women and children who are experiencing family violence which is accessible for people with disability. Increasing the supply of adaptable and/or accessible crisis and transitional accommodation recognises such housing means people from a broader range of ages and abilities can utilise these assets.

It will also support ACT Government's positive duty to eliminate discrimination and commitment to inclusive housing and communities.

### ***Priority Area 3: Women and children experiencing family violence and/or young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness***

The above priorities do not preclude consideration of proposals which demonstrate meeting the crisis and transitional housing needs of women and children experiencing family violence and/or young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the ACT.

## 2. What is the rationale that supports the identification of the above priority investment areas?

### ***Priority Area 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people***

- Through the [ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028](#), the ACT Government has committed to decrease the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are overrepresented in ACT's homeless population. In 2022-2023, out of 3,945 clients presenting to a SHS located in the ACT, 725 clients identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (See AIHW SHS Collection).
- Of clients who experience persistent homelessness in the ACT in 2022-23, 50.9% are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, the highest rate in the nation (see RoGS Table 19A.39).
- The ACT Government, as a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, is also committed to building the community-controlled sector to deliver high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- There are no crisis and transitional accommodation places provided by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in the ACT.

### ***Priority Area 2: People with disability***

- There is no crisis accommodation purpose built and equipped with accessible amenities for women and children with disability in the ACT. While there are limited clients with disclosed disability needs, the numbers may not capture the full need as households requiring assistance may not present to SHS due to knowledge there are no available options.
- Increasing the supply of adaptable and/or accessible accommodation recognises people from a broader range of ages and abilities can live in such dwellings and will ensure people with disability have more equitable access to services.
- Improving access to crisis and transitional housing for people with disability will support the ACT Government's commitments on housing and homes in the ACT Disability Strategy, on inclusive homes and communities under the *Disability Inclusion Bill 2024*, and to implement the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission with access to disability informed services including crisis and temporary accommodation. It is also consistent with the priority of addressing homelessness under *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031*.
- In 2022-2023, of 3,945 clients presenting to a SHS located in the ACT, 84 clients were with disabilities who always or sometimes need assistance with core activities such as self-care, mobility or communication.

### **3. Proposed Jurisdictional Support**

The ACT Government is unable to commit any specific support to prospective projects which may be submitted in this funding round, as supports would be project dependent and subject to future Budget processes. However, the ACT Government undertakes to explore what options may be possible with prospective applicants.