



STATEMENT BY NT SHELTER

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A balanced approach to public housing reform

The NT's peak body working to address unmet housing need and homelessness urges a considered approach to public housing reform to ensure housing stability is protected and homelessness is prevented.

For many people, public housing is housing of last resort, providing a roof at times of vulnerability. The vast majority of tenants are just like any other Territorian; they want to live somewhere safe and establish stable foundations after years on a waitlist.

Most public housing tenants meet their obligations and it is important to recognise this and ensure that the Territory we want to be is reflected in this reform process, a cohesive community that shares values of opportunity, fairness, and responsibility.

When tenancy issues arise and these issues aren't identified and managed early, they can escalate quickly, degrading everyone's ability to feel safe in their suburb.

Sustainable outcomes are achieved when clear expectations are paired with early intervention.

Reform done well results in a housing system where social housing is well-built and well-managed, with access to support that helps tenants remain housed through difficult periods and prevents displacement into public spaces.

As public housing policy evolves, NT Shelter encourages a balanced approach that strengthens tenancy support and enables frontline workers to respond early and proportionately. This is the strongest pathway to improving both community safety and housing outcomes.

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