

2006

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

(As presented)

(Minister for Housing)

## Housing Assistance Bill 2006

### Contents

---

	Page	
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	
1	Name of Act	2
2	Commencement	2
3	Dictionary	2
4	Notes	3
5	Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc	3
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Objects and important concepts</b>	
6	Objects	4
7	What is <i>housing assistance</i> ?	5
8	When is someone <i>eligible</i> for housing assistance?	5

---

		Page
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Housing Commissioner</b>	
9	Housing commissioner—establishment	6
10	Housing commissioner—powers generally	6
11	Housing commissioner—functions	7
12	Housing commissioner—no power for contracts of employment	7
13	Limits on housing commissioner—joint ventures	7
14	Notice of joint ventures	8
15	Limit on housing commissioner—large contracts	9
16	Housing commissioner—Ministerial directions	9
17	Housing commissioner—delegation	9
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>Housing assistance programs</b>	
18	What is a <i>housing assistance program</i> ?	10
19	Approved housing assistance programs	10
20	Approved housing assistance programs—determinations	10
21	Approved housing assistance programs—operational guidelines	11
22	Approved housing assistance programs—market rent	11
23	Approved housing assistance programs—rent review	12
24	Housing assistance applicants—requirement for further information	12
25	Housing assistance recipients—requirement for information	13
26	Requirements for information—AAT review	14
27	Requirements for information—notice of reviewable decisions	14
<b>Part 5</b>	<b>Protection of information</b>	
28	Meaning of <i>protected information</i> —pt 5	15
29	FOI Act exemption—documents containing protected information	16
<b>Part 6</b>	<b>Commonwealth-Territory funding agreements</b>	
30	What is a <i>Commonwealth-Territory funding agreement</i> ?	18
31	Notification of Commonwealth-Territory funding agreements	18
<b>Part 7</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
32	Placing unleased land under housing commissioner's control	19
33	Unleased land placed under housing commissioner's control—powers	20
34	Unneeded land may be returned	21

---

	Page	
35	Information to Minister	21
36	Financial arrangements	21
37	Protection of officials from liability	22
38	Determination of fees	22
39	Approved forms	22
40	Regulation-making power	23
41	Legislation amended—sch 1	23
42	Legislation repealed	23
<b>Part 10</b>	<b>Transitional—Housing Assistance Act 1987</b>	
100	Definitions—pt 10	24
101	Transitional—rights and liabilities under old Act	24
102	Transitional—corresponding housing assistance programs and things	25
103	Transitional—uncompleted applications for AAT review	27
104	Transitional—sensitive information under old Act	27
105	Transitional—notification of existing Commonwealth-Territory funding agreements	28
106	Transitional—land placed under control of housing commissioner under old Act	28
107	Transitional—standard residential tenancy terms, cl 36	28
108	Transitional—outdated references to old Act	29
109	Transitional regulations	30
110	Expiry—pt 10	30
<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Consequential amendments</b>	31
<b>Part 1.1</b>	<b>Duties Act 1999</b>	31
<b>Part 1.2</b>	<b>Freedom of Information Act 1989</b>	31
<b>Part 1.3</b>	<b>Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991</b>	32
<b>Part 1.4</b>	<b>Land (Planning and Environment) Regulation 1992</b>	32
<b>Part 1.5</b>	<b>Land Tax Act 2004</b>	33
<b>Part 1.6</b>	<b>Legislation Act 2001</b>	33
<b>Part 1.7</b>	<b>Magistrates Court Act 1930</b>	34

Contents

---

<b>Part 1.8</b>	<b>Residential Tenancies Act 1997</b>	Page 35
<b>Part 1.9</b>	<b>Supreme Court Act 1933</b>	37
<b>Part 1.10</b>	<b>Uncollected Goods Act 1996</b>	38
<b>Part 1.11</b>	<b>Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 1983</b>	38
<b>Dictionary</b>		39

2006

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

(As presented)

(Minister for Housing)

## **Housing Assistance Bill 2006**

---

### **A Bill for**

An Act to provide for housing assistance, and for other purposes

---

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **Part 1 Preliminary**

2 **1 Name of Act**

3 This Act is the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*.

4 **2 Commencement**

5 This Act commences on a day fixed by the Minister by written  
6 notice.

7 *Note 1* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on  
8 the notification day (see Legislation Act, s 75 (1)).

9 *Note 2* A single day or time may be fixed, or different days or times may be  
10 fixed, for the commencement of different provisions (see Legislation  
11 Act, s 77 (1)).

12 *Note 3* If a provision has not commenced within 6 months beginning on the  
13 notification day, it automatically commences on the first day after that  
14 period (see Legislation Act, s 79).

15 **3 Dictionary**

16 The dictionary at the end of this Act is part of this Act.

17 *Note 1* The dictionary at the end of this Act defines certain terms used in this  
18 Act, and includes references (*signpost definitions*) to other terms  
19 defined elsewhere in this Act.

20 For example, the signpost definition '*housing assistance*—see  
21 section 7.' means that the term 'housing assistance' is defined in that  
22 section.

23 *Note 2* A definition in the dictionary (including a signpost definition) applies to  
24 the entire Act unless the definition, or another provision of the Act,  
25 provides otherwise or the contrary intention otherwise appears (see  
26 Legislation Act, s 155 and s 156 (1)).

1   **4**       **Notes**

2           A note included in this Act is explanatory and is not part of this Act.

3       *Note*    See the Legislation Act, s 127 (1), (4) and (5) for the legal status of  
4           notes.

5   **5**       **Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc**

6           Other legislation applies in relation to offences against this Act.

7       *Note 1*   *Criminal Code*

8           The Criminal Code, ch 2 applies to all offences against this Act (see  
9           Code, pt 2.1).

10          The chapter sets out the general principles of criminal responsibility  
11          (including burdens of proof and general defences), and defines terms  
12          used for offences to which the Code applies (eg *conduct*, *intention*,  
13          *recklessness* and *strict liability*).

14       *Note 2*   *Penalty units*

15          The Legislation Act, s 133 deals with the meaning of offence penalties  
16          that are expressed in penalty units.

1 **Part 2** **Objects and important concepts**

2 **6** **Objects**

- 3 (1) The main objects of this Act are—
- 4 (a) to maximise the opportunities for everyone in the ACT to have  
5 access to housing that is affordable, secure and appropriate to  
6 their needs; and
- 7 (b) to facilitate the provision of housing assistance for those most  
8 in need; and
- 9 (c) to maximise value for money in the provision of housing  
10 assistance; and
- 11 (d) to promote a choice of forms of housing assistance, and  
12 providers of housing assistance, for entities eligible for housing  
13 assistance; and
- 14 *Note* **Entity** includes a person—see the Legislation Act, dict, pt 1.
- 15 (e) to facilitate the provision of rental housing that—
- 16 (i) has adequate amenity, is of an adequate size and is  
17 appropriately located for employment opportunities and  
18 necessary services and facilities; and
- 19 (ii) is coordinated with any support services (provided under  
20 other laws) required by consumers of housing assistance  
21 to live in the community; and
- 22 (f) to facilitate the provision of an adequate supply of affordable  
23 home finance for people on low and moderate incomes; and
- 24 (g) to promote the development of flexible and innovative  
25 financial arrangements to facilitate access to home ownership  
26 for people on low and moderate incomes; and

- 1 (h) to promote the growth of a community housing sector as a  
2 viable alternative to public and private rental housing and  
3 home ownership; and
- 4 (i) to promote the establishment of appropriate mechanisms and  
5 forums to allow input into housing policy by consumers, and  
6 potential consumers, of housing assistance and by  
7 representative non-government agencies involved in housing  
8 policy and provision.
- 9 (2) A person administering this Act must have regard to the objects of  
10 the Act to the maximum extent practicable considering the resources  
11 available to the person.

## 12 **7 What is *housing assistance*?**

13 In this Act:

14 *housing assistance* means services, programs, assets, rebates and  
15 amounts, provided under an approved housing assistance program to  
16 help entities who are eligible for assistance under the program to  
17 meet their emergency, short-term, medium-term and long-term  
18 housing needs.

19 *Note* *Approved housing assistance program*—see s 19.

## 20 **8 When is someone *eligible* for housing assistance?**

21 For this Act, an entity is *eligible* for housing assistance if the entity  
22 meets the eligibility criteria under an approved housing assistance  
23 program.

24 *Note* *Entity* includes a person—see the Legislation Act, dict, pt 1.

1 **Part 3 Housing Commissioner**

2 **9 Housing commissioner—establishment**

3 (1) There is a Commissioner for Social Housing (the *housing*  
4 *commissioner*).

5 (2) The housing commissioner is a corporation and must have a seal.

6 *Note* For provisions about proof of seals, see the *Evidence Act 1995* (Cwlth),  
7 s 150 and s 151.

8 (3) The chief executive is the housing commissioner.

9 **10 Housing commissioner—powers generally**

10 (1) The housing commissioner has all the powers of a person, unless  
11 expressly excluded by this Act.

12 **Examples of powers**

- 13 1 to enter into a contract  
14 2 to own and dispose of property  
15 3 to sue and be sued  
16 4 to act as a trustee

17 *Note 1* **Person** includes an individual and a corporation (see *Legislation Act*,  
18 dict, pt 1).

19 *Note 2* See s 12 to s 15 for limits on the housing commissioner's powers.

20 *Note 3* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend, but  
21 does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see  
22 *Legislation Act*, s 126 and s 132).

23 (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the housing commissioner may  
24 enter into arrangements with entities to provide housing assistance.

25 *Note* **Entity** includes a person—see the *Legislation Act*, dict, pt 1.

---

1     **11           Housing commissioner—functions**

- 2           (1) The housing commissioner has the following functions:
- 3               (a) administering, on behalf of the Territory, programs and  
4                     funding arrangements for delivering housing assistance in the  
5                     ACT by way of—
- 6                       (i) public rental housing; and  
7                       (ii) home ownership; and  
8                       (iii) financial assistance to home owners and tenants; and  
9                       (iv) community housing;
- 10              (b) administering, on behalf of the Territory, any services relating  
11                     to housing assistance that the Minister approves under  
12                     subsection (2).

13              *Note*     A provision of a law that gives an entity (including a person) a function  
14                     also gives the entity powers necessary and convenient to exercise the  
15                     function (see Legislation Act, s 196 and dict, pt 1, def *entity*).

- 16           (2) The Minister may approve stated services relating to housing  
17               assistance.

- 18           (3) An approval is a notifiable instrument.

19              *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

20     **12           Housing commissioner—no power for contracts of**  
21               **employment**

22           The housing commissioner does not have the power to employ staff  
23           on a contract of employment.

24     **13           Limits on housing commissioner—joint ventures**

- 25           (1) The housing commissioner must not—
- 26               (a) enter into negotiations for a joint venture without the  
27                     Minister’s prior written approval; or

- 1 (b) enter into an agreement for a joint venture without the  
2 Executive's prior written approval.
- 3 (2) An approval under subsection (1)—
- 4 (a) may apply generally or may relate to a particular proposed  
5 joint venture; and
- 6 (b) may be given subject to the conditions or restrictions stated in  
7 the approval.

8 **14 Notice of joint ventures**

- 9 (1) This section applies if the housing commissioner enters into an  
10 agreement for a joint venture.
- 11 (2) The housing commissioner must, not later than 14 days after the day  
12 the commissioner enters into the agreement, give the Minister a  
13 written statement (the *commissioner's statement*) setting out the  
14 details of, and the reasons for entering into, the agreement.
- 15 (3) The Minister must present a copy of the commissioner's statement  
16 to the Legislative Assembly not later than 6 sitting days after the  
17 day the Minister is given the statement.
- 18 (4) However, the copy of the commissioner's statement presented to the  
19 Legislative Assembly need not include any material that is  
20 commercially sensitive.
- 21 (5) If commercially sensitive information is not included in the  
22 presented copy of the commissioner's statement, the Minister must,  
23 when presenting the statement to the Legislative Assembly, also  
24 present a further statement setting out the general nature of the  
25 commercially sensitive information and the reason for it not being  
26 included in the presented statement.

1    **15           Limit on housing commissioner—large contracts**

2           The housing commissioner must not, without the Minister’s prior  
3           written approval, enter into a contract which involves the payment  
4           or receipt of a total amount larger than \$5 million.

5    **16           Housing commissioner—Ministerial directions**

6           (1) The Minister may give a direction to the housing commissioner  
7           about the exercise of the commissioner’s functions.

8           (2) The housing commissioner must exercise the commissioner’s  
9           functions in accordance with any direction given by the Minister.

10          (3) A direction is a notifiable instrument.

11          *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

12   **17           Housing commissioner—delegation**

13          The housing commissioner may delegate the commissioner’s  
14          functions under this Act or another territory law to a public servant.

15          *Note*     For the making of delegations and the exercise of delegated functions,  
16          see the Legislation Act, pt 19.4.

1 **Part 4 Housing assistance programs**

2 **18 What is a *housing assistance program*?**

3 In this Act:

4 *housing assistance program* means a program for providing  
5 housing assistance that includes the following:

- 6 (a) the kind of assistance that may be provided under the program;  
7 (b) the eligibility criteria for assistance under the program;  
8 (c) how decisions of the housing commissioner under the program  
9 may be reviewed.

10 *Note 1* **Housing assistance**—see s 7.

11 *Note 2* Power given under an Act to make a statutory instrument (including a  
12 program) includes power to amend or repeal the instrument (see  
13 Legislation Act, s 46 (1)).

14 **19 Approved housing assistance programs**

- 15 (1) The Minister may approve a housing assistance program.  
16 (2) An approved housing assistance program is a disallowable  
17 instrument.

18 *Note 1* Power given under an Act to make a statutory instrument (including a  
19 program) includes power to amend or repeal the instrument (see  
20 Legislation Act, s 46 (1)).

21 *Note 2* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the  
22 Legislative Assembly, under the Legislation Act.

23 **20 Approved housing assistance programs—determinations**

- 24 (1) An approved housing assistance program may provide for the  
25 housing commissioner to make determinations for the program.

- 1 (2) A determination under subsection (1), and each amendment (if any)  
2 of a determination, is a notifiable instrument.

3 *Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

4 **21 Approved housing assistance programs—operational**  
5 **guidelines**

- 6 (1) The housing commissioner may issue guidelines (*housing operation*  
7 *guidelines*) outlining procedures for the management or operation of  
8 approved housing assistance programs.

- 9 (2) Housing operation guidelines—

10 (a) may deal with matters also dealt with elsewhere under this Act;  
11 but

12 (b) must not be inconsistent with this Act (including approved  
13 housing assistance programs).

14 *Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory  
15 instruments made or in force under the Act, including any  
16 approved housing assistance program or regulation (see  
17 Legislation Act, s 104).

- 18 (3) A housing operation guideline, and each amendment (if any) of a  
19 guideline, is a notifiable instrument.

20 *Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

21 **22 Approved housing assistance programs—market rent**

- 22 (1) If housing is being rented to an entity under an approved housing  
23 assistance program, the entity must be charged market rent for the  
24 housing.

- 25 (2) However, an approved housing assistance program may provide for  
26 a rebate of rent in accordance with the program.

- 1 (3) In this section:
- 2 *market rent*, for housing, means the rent that would be charged by
- 3 the lessor for the housing if the housing were rented by a willing
- 4 lessor to a willing tenant—
- 5 (a) dealing with each other at arm’s length; and
- 6 (b) each of whom had acted knowledgeably, sensibly and without
- 7 compulsion.

8 **23 Approved housing assistance programs—rent review**

9 The housing commissioner must review the rent charged for housing

10 rented under an approved housing assistance program at least once

11 each year.

12 **24 Housing assistance applicants—requirement for further**

13 **information**

- 14 (1) This section applies if an entity applies for housing assistance.
- 15 (2) The housing commissioner may require the entity to give the
- 16 commissioner further stated information that the commissioner
- 17 reasonably needs to decide the application.

18 *Note* **Information** includes a document—see the dictionary.

- 19 (3) The housing commissioner may, by written notice to the entity,
- 20 refuse the application if—
- 21 (a) the requirement is made in writing; and
- 22 (b) the requirement states a reasonable time (of at least 7 days after
- 23 the day the requirement is given to the entity) for providing the
- 24 information; and
- 25 (c) the entity does not provide the information in accordance with
- 26 the requirement.

---

1   **25**           **Housing assistance recipients—requirement for**  
2                   **information**

- 3           (1) This section applies if an entity is receiving housing assistance.
- 4           (2) The housing commissioner may, at any time, require the entity to  
5           give the commissioner stated information that the commissioner  
6           reasonably needs—
- 7               (a) to review the housing assistance being provided to the entity;  
8               or
- 9               (b) to provide housing assistance to the entity; or
- 10              (c) for the good management of an approved housing assistance  
11              program or of assets held by the commissioner; or
- 12              (d) to otherwise exercise the commissioner’s functions under this  
13              Act.
- 14           *Note*     **Information** includes a document—see the dictionary.
- 15           (3) The housing commissioner may, by written notice to the entity,  
16           suspend or cancel all or part of the entity’s housing assistance if—
- 17               (a) the requirement is made in writing; and
- 18               (b) the requirement states a reasonable time (of at least 7 days after  
19               the day the requirement is given to the entity) for providing the  
20               information; and
- 21               (c) the entity does not provide the information in accordance with  
22               the requirement.
- 23           (4) A notice under subsection (3) must state—
- 24               (a) that the housing assistance is suspended or cancelled; and
- 25               (b) when the suspension or cancellation begins; and

1 (c) if housing assistance is suspended—when the suspension ends.

2 *Note* The notice must also comply with the code of practice in force under the  
3 *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1989*, s 25B (1) (see this Act,  
4 s 27).

5 **26 Requirements for information—AAT review**

6 An entity mentioned in table 26, column 3 may apply to the  
7 administrative appeals tribunal for review of a decision by the  
8 housing commissioner mentioned in column 2 for the entity.

9 **Table 26 Reviewable decisions**

<b>column 1 item</b>	<b>column 2 decision</b>	<b>column 3 affected entity</b>
1	section 24—refusal of an application for housing assistance	the applicant for the assistance
2	section 25—suspension or cancellation of all or part of the housing assistance being provided to an entity	the entity

---

10 **27 Requirements for information—notice of reviewable**  
11 **decisions**

12 (1) The housing commissioner must give written notice of a decision  
13 mentioned in table 26, column 2 to the entity mentioned in column 3  
14 for the decision.

15 (2) The notice must be in accordance with the requirements of the code  
16 of practice in force under the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal*  
17 *Act 1989*, section 25B (1).

1     **Part 5**                                   **Protection of information**

2     **28**            **Meaning of *protected information*—pt 5**

- 3           (1) For this part, information is *protected information* if it—
- 4               (a) identifies an entity that has applied for housing assistance as
- 5                       having applied for housing assistance; or
- 6               (b) identifies an entity that is or has been a housing assistance
- 7                       recipient as a housing assistance recipient or former housing
- 8                       assistance recipient; or
- 9               (c) identifies land that is a housing assistance property as a
- 10                      housing assistance property; or
- 11              (d) is protected personal information about an entity that—
- 12                      (i) has applied for housing assistance; or
- 13                      (ii) is or has been a housing assistance recipient; or
- 14              (e) is information prescribed by regulation for this definition; or
- 15              (f) would allow something to which paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d)
- 16                      or (e) applies to be worked out.

17            *Note*     **Entity** includes a person—see the Legislation Act, dict, pt 1.

- 18           (2) In this section:

19            ***housing assistance property*** means—

- 20               (a) land owned, controlled or held by the housing commissioner;
- 21                      or

1 (b) land used by an entity contracted by the commissioner to  
2 provide housing assistance.

3 **Example of land controlled or held by the housing commissioner—**  
4 **par (a)**

5 land leased by the commissioner from a private landlord to provide public  
6 rental housing

7 **Example of entity contracted by the housing commissioner—par (b)**

8 a community organisation that is contracted by the commissioner to operate  
9 a refuge

10 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
11 but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
12 appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

13 ***housing assistance recipient*** means an entity receiving housing  
14 assistance.

15 **Examples of housing assistance recipients**

16 1 a tenant of a housing assistance property

17 2 a person accommodated at a refuge or other residential facility that is  
18 operated by a community organisation receiving housing assistance to  
19 provide the accommodation

20 ***protected personal information***, about an entity that is or has been a  
21 housing assistance recipient, means—

22 (a) the entity's name, telephone number or address; or

23 (b) any other information prescribed by regulation for this  
24 definition.

25 **29 FOI Act exemption—documents containing protected**  
26 **information**

27 (1) For the purposes of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the  
28 ***FOI Act***), a document is an exempt document if—

29 (a) the document is in the possession of the housing  
30 commissioner; and

- 1           (b) its disclosure under the FOI Act would involve the disclosure  
2           of protected information.
- 3           (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a request  
4           under either of the following sections of the FOI Act if the request is  
5           made by a person to whom the document relates:
- 6           (a) section 14 (Requests for access);
- 7           (b) section 48 (Persons may make application for amendment of  
8           records).
- 9           (3) To remove any doubt, subsection (1) is additional to, and does not  
10          limit, the operation of the FOI Act, part 4 (Exempt documents).

1 **Part 6** **Commonwealth-Territory funding**  
2 **agreements**

3 **30** **What is a *Commonwealth-Territory funding agreement*?**

4 In this Act:

5 *Commonwealth-Territory funding agreement* means an agreement  
6 between the Commonwealth and the Territory for the  
7 Commonwealth to give financial assistance to the Territory for  
8 housing assistance or to promote the objects of this Act.

9 **31** **Notification of Commonwealth-Territory funding**  
10 **agreements**

11 (1) This section applies if the Territory enters into or amends a  
12 Commonwealth-Territory funding agreement.

13 (2) The agreement or amendment is a notifiable instrument.

14 *Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.



- 1 **33 Unleased land placed under housing commissioner's**  
2 **control—powers**
- 3 (1) This section applies to land placed under the control of the housing  
4 commissioner under section 32.
- 5 (2) The housing commissioner may do 1 or more of the following in  
6 relation to the land:
- 7 (a) manage the land;
- 8 (b) authorise people to enter the land;
- 9 (c) use the land in any way the commissioner considers  
10 appropriate for the commissioner's functions;
- 11 (d) arrange for the grant to someone else of a lease of, or licence to  
12 occupy, the land;
- 13 (e) obtain a lease for the land in the name of the housing  
14 commissioner and transfer the lease;
- 15 (f) if the land is held by an entity under a lease—
- 16 (i) do anything in relation to the land that the Territory could  
17 do in relation to the land immediately before the land was  
18 placed under the commissioner's control; or
- 19 (ii) exercise any power under the *Recovery of Lands Act 1929*  
20 that the Territory may exercise for the land under that Act  
21 on behalf of the Commonwealth.
- 22 *Note 1* The *Recovery of Lands Act 1929* provides for the Territory to end  
23 a lease and take action against people. However, it does not  
24 apply to leases under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.
- 25 *Note 2* See also the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, s 189  
26 for the recovery of land held under a licence.
- 27 (3) However, a lease or licence must not be granted by anyone for the  
28 land except with the housing commissioner's prior written  
29 agreement.

---

1   **34           Unneeded land may be returned**

2           (1) This section applies if the housing commissioner is satisfied that  
3           unleased land that has been placed under the commissioner's control  
4           under section 32 is no longer needed for this Act.

5           (2) The housing commissioner may, by instrument, surrender control of  
6           the land to the planning and land authority.

7           (3) An instrument under subsection (2) is a notifiable instrument.

8           *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

9   **35           Information to Minister**

10          (1) If the Minister asks the housing commissioner at any time to give  
11          the Minister information (including protected information) about  
12          any matter relating to the commissioner's functions, the  
13          commissioner must comply with the request.

14          (2) In this section:

15                 *protected information*—see section 28.

16   **36           Financial arrangements**

17          (1) All amounts paid to or by the housing commissioner for this Act  
18          (including amounts paid under a Commonwealth-Territory funding  
19          agreement) must be paid into or out of a departmental banking  
20          account or territory banking account within the meaning of the  
21          *Financial Management Act 1996*.

22          (2) To remove any doubt, amounts owed to, or paid to or by, the  
23          housing commissioner are amounts owed to, or paid to or by, the  
24          Territory.

1 **37 Protection of officials from liability**

2 (1) In this section:

3 *official* means—

4 (a) the housing commissioner; or

5 (b) anyone else exercising a function under this Act.

6 (2) An official is not personally liable for anything done or omitted to  
7 be done honestly and without recklessness—

8 (a) in the exercise of a function under this Act; or

9 (b) in the reasonable belief that the conduct was in the exercise of  
10 a function under this Act.

11 (3) Any liability that would, apart from this section, attach to an official  
12 attaches instead to the Territory.

13 *Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments  
14 made or in force under the Act, including any approved housing  
15 assistance program or regulation (see Legislation Act, s 104).

16 **38 Determination of fees**

17 (1) The Minister may determine fees for this Act.

18 *Note* The Legislation Act contains provisions about the making of  
19 determinations and regulations relating to fees (see pt 6.3).

20 (2) A determination is a disallowable instrument.

21 *Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the  
22 Legislative Assembly, under the Legislation Act.

23 **39 Approved forms**

24 (1) The housing commissioner may approve forms for this Act.

25 (2) If the housing commissioner approves a form for a particular  
26 purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.

27 *Note* For other provisions about forms, see the Legislation Act, s 255.

1           (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

2           *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

3       **40           Regulation-making power**

4           The Executive may make regulations for this Act.

5           *Note*     A regulation must be notified, and presented to the Legislative  
6                    Assembly, under the Legislation Act.

7       **41           Legislation amended—sch 1**

8           This Act amends the legislation mentioned in schedule 1.

9       **42           Legislation repealed**

10          (1) The *Housing Assistance Act 1987* is repealed.

11          (2) All legislative instruments under the *Housing Assistance Act 1987*  
12             are repealed.

1 **Part 10** **Transitional—Housing**  
2 **Assistance Act 1987**

3 **100** **Definitions—pt 10**

4 In this part:

5 *old Act* means the *Housing Assistance Act 1987*.

6 *old housing assistance program* means a housing assistance  
7 program under the old Act.

8 **101** **Transitional—rights and liabilities under old Act**

9 (1) This section applies if, immediately before the commencement of  
10 this section, an entity had a right or liability under the old Act.

11 *Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments  
12 made or in force under the Act, including any old housing assistance  
13 programs (see Legislation Act, s 104).

14 (2) The repeal of the old Act does not affect the right or liability.

15 **Examples of rights**

16 1 a right to occupy land under a tenancy agreement or licence

17 2 a rebate on rent payable under a tenancy agreement

18 **Example of liability**

19 a requirement under an old housing assistance program to pay rent

20 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend, but  
21 does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see  
22 Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

- 1 (3) The right or liability continues until it is amended or ended under  
2 this Act or another territory law.

3 *Note 1* **Amend**—see the Legislation Act, dict, pt 1.

4 *Note 2* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments  
5 made or in force under the Act, including any approved housing  
6 assistance program or regulation (see Legislation Act, s 104).

- 7 (4) This section is subject to section 102 and section 109 (Transitional  
8 regulations).

- 9 (5) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
10 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

11 **102 Transitional—corresponding housing assistance**  
12 **programs and things**

- 13 (1) The housing commissioner may declare that—  
14 (a) an approved housing assistance program corresponds to an old  
15 housing assistance program; and  
16 (b) a thing under an old housing assistance program corresponds to  
17 a thing under an approved housing assistance program.

18 **Example**

19 A housing assistance program under the old Act (the *old program*) provides for  
20 various things, including—

- 21 (a) applications for assistance, transfer of housing, rental rebates and to have a  
22 person's name returned to the register of eligible applicants; and  
23 (b) the keeping of a register of eligible applicants; and  
24 (c) the allocation of a needs category to eligible applicants; and  
25 (d) the review of certain decisions.

26 The housing commissioner might declare that an approved housing assistance  
27 program for public rental housing (the *new program*) corresponds to the old  
28 program and that—

- 29 (a) a particular kind of application under the old program corresponds to a  
30 particular kind of application under the new program; and  
31 (b) the register under the old program corresponds to a register or list under the  
32 new program; and

- 1 (c) a needs category under the old program corresponds to a priority category  
2 (however described) under the new program; and
- 3 (d) an application to the commissioner for review of a reviewable decision under  
4 the old program is an application for a stated kind of review under the new  
5 program.
- 6 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend, but  
7 does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see  
8 Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).
- 9 (2) A declaration may be made under subsection (1) whether or not the  
10 programs or things correspond, or substantially correspond, with  
11 each other.
- 12 (3) If the housing commissioner declares under subsection (1) that a  
13 thing (the *old thing*) under an old housing assistance program  
14 corresponds to a thing (the *new thing*) under an approved housing  
15 assistance program—
- 16 (a) the old thing is taken to be the new thing under the approved  
17 housing assistance program; and
- 18 (b) the new thing is not invalid only because something required in  
19 relation to it under the approved housing assistance program  
20 has not been done.
- 21 (4) For this section, the housing commissioner may give any direction  
22 the commissioner considers necessary or desirable to facilitate the  
23 application of a declaration under subsection (1) in relation to an  
24 entity.
- 25 (5) This section is subject to section 103 and section 109 (Transitional  
26 regulations).
- 27 (6) A declaration under subsection (1) is a notifiable instrument.
- 28 *Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.
- 29 (7) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
30 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

- 
- 1     **103       Transitional—uncompleted applications for AAT review**
- 2           (1) This section applies if—
- 3               (a) before the commencement of this section (the
- 4                 *commencement*), an application for review to the
- 5                 administrative appeals tribunal had been made in relation to a
- 6                 decision under an old housing assistance program; and
- 7                 (b) immediately before the commencement, the proceeding on the
- 8                 application had not ended; and
- 9                 (c) the thing to which the decision relates is declared under
- 10                section 102 to be a thing (the *new thing*) under an approved
- 11                housing assistance program.
- 12           (2) If this section applies—
- 13               (a) the proceeding may be continued as if the application had been
- 14                made in relation to the new thing; and
- 15               (b) the decision-maker is taken to be the housing commissioner.
- 16           (3) For this section, the administrative appeals tribunal may give any
- 17               direction the tribunal considers necessary or desirable to facilitate a
- 18               matter in relation to the application for review.
- 19           (4) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88
- 20               (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.
- 21     **104       Transitional—sensitive information under old Act**
- 22           (1) For section 28 (Meaning of *protected information*—pt 5), a
- 23               reference to an entity having *applied for housing assistance*
- 24               includes an entity that applied for assistance under an old housing
- 25               assistance program.
- 26           (2) For section 28, the definition of *housing assistance recipient*
- 27               includes an entity that received assistance under an old housing
- 28               assistance program.
-

- 1 (3) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
2 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

3 **105 Transitional—notification of existing**  
4 **Commonwealth-Territory funding agreements**

- 5 (1) This section applies to a Commonwealth-Territory funding  
6 agreement, and any amendment of the agreement, that is in force  
7 immediately before the commencement of this section.
- 8 (2) The agreement and amendment may be notified on the ACT  
9 legislation register under section 31 (Notification of  
10 Commonwealth-Territory funding agreements).
- 11 (3) In this section:  
12 *ACT legislation register*—see the Legislation Act, section 18.

13 **106 Transitional—land placed under control of housing**  
14 **commissioner under old Act**

- 15 (1) For this Act, a reference to land placed under the control of the  
16 housing commissioner under section 32 (Placing unleased land  
17 under housing commissioner’s control) includes land placed under  
18 the commissioner for housing’s control under the old Act, section 16  
19 or section 17.
- 20 (2) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
21 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

22 **107 Transitional—standard residential tenancy terms, cl 36**

- 23 (1) This section applies to a residential tenancy agreement within the  
24 meaning of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* if the agreement  
25 includes a clause in accordance with that Act, schedule 1 (Standard  
26 residential tenancy terms), clause 36 (the *relevant clause*) as in  
27 force immediately before the commencement of this section.

- 1 (2) A reference in the relevant clause in the residential tenancy  
2 agreement to the commissioner for housing is taken to be a  
3 reference to the housing commissioner.
- 4 (3) A reference in the relevant clause in the residential tenancy  
5 agreement to the *Housing Assistance Act 1987*, section 15 (3) is  
6 taken to be a reference to this Act, section 23.
- 7 (4) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
8 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

9 **108 Transitional—outdated references to old Act**

- 10 (1) In any Act, instrument made under an Act or document, a reference  
11 to the old Act is, in relation to anything to which this Act applies, a  
12 reference to this Act.

13 *Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments  
14 made or in force under the Act, including any approved housing  
15 assistance program or regulation (see Legislation Act, s 104).

- 16 (2) In any Act, instrument made under an Act or document, a reference  
17 to a provision of the old Act is, in relation to anything to which this  
18 Act applies, a reference to the corresponding provision of this Act.
- 19 (3) In any Act, instrument made under an Act or document, a reference  
20 to anything that is no longer applicable because of the repeal of the  
21 old Act by this Act and for which there is a corresponding thing  
22 under this Act, is taken to be a reference to the thing under this Act,  
23 if the context allows and if otherwise appropriate.
- 24 (4) This section is subject to a declaration under section 102 (1)  
25 (Transitional—corresponding housing assistance programs and  
26 things).
- 27 (5) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
28 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

1 **109 Transitional regulations**

- 2 (1) A regulation may prescribe transitional matters necessary or  
3 convenient to be prescribed because of the enactment of this Act.
- 4 (2) A regulation may modify this part (including its operation in  
5 relation to another territory law) to make provision in relation to  
6 anything that, in the Executive's opinion, is not, or is not adequately  
7 or appropriately, dealt with in this part.
- 8 (3) A regulation under subsection (2) has effect despite anything else in  
9 this Act or another territory law.
- 10 (4) This section is a law to which the Legislation Act, section 88  
11 (Repeal does not end effect of transitional laws etc) applies.

12 **110 Expiry—pt 10**

13 This part expires 1 year after the day this section commences.

## **Schedule 1      Consequential amendments**

(see s 41)

### **Part 1.1                      Duties Act 1999**

#### **[1.1]      Section 64 (1) (a)**

*substitute*

- (a) the housing commissioner; or

### **Part 1.2                      Freedom of Information Act 1989**

#### **[1.2]      New section 6AA**

*before section 6A, insert*

#### **6AA      Exemption of lists of housing assistance properties**

- (1) This Act does not apply to a document that is, or a part of a document that contains, a list of housing assistance properties identified as housing assistance properties.

*Note*      For the exemption of documents in the possession of the housing commissioner containing protected information within the meaning of the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*, pt 5, see that Act, s 29.

- (2) In this section:

*housing assistance property*—see the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*, section 28 (2) (Meaning of *protected information*—pt 5).

#### **[1.3]      Sections 6AA and 6A**

*renumber as sections 6A and 6B*

**[1.4] Part 4 heading, new note**

*insert*

*Note* For the exemption of documents in the possession of the housing commissioner containing protected information within the meaning of the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*, pt 5, see that Act, s 29.

**Part 1.3 Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991**

**[1.5] Section 159A (1), definition of *concessional lease*, paragraph (c) (ii)**

*substitute*

- (ii) a lease over land that, immediately before the grant of the lease, was owned, controlled or held by the housing commissioner under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*; or

**Part 1.4 Land (Planning and Environment) Regulation 1992**

**[1.6] Section 19 heading**

*substitute*

**19 Housing commissioner remission—Act, s 184C (1)**

**[1.7] Section 19 (1) (a)**

*substitute*

- (a) the lease is held by the housing commissioner; and

**[1.8] Section 22 (2) (b)**

*substitute*

- (b) the lease is not a lease held by the housing commissioner to which section 19 (Housing commissioner remission—Act, s 184C (1)) applies.

**[1.9] Section 30 heading**

*substitute*

**30 Housing commissioner remission—Act, s 187C (1)**

**[1.10] Section 30 (a)**

*substitute*

- (a) each lease to be surrendered is held by the housing commissioner; and

## **Part 1.5 Land Tax Act 2004**

**[1.11] Section 10 (1) (c)**

*substitute*

- (c) a parcel of land owned by the housing commissioner under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*;

## **Part 1.6 Legislation Act 2001**

**[1.12] Dictionary, part 1, definition of *commissioner for housing***

*omit*

**[1.13] Dictionary, part 1, new definition of *housing commissioner***

*insert*

*housing commissioner* means the Commissioner for Social Housing under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*.

## **Part 1.7 Magistrates Court Act 1930**

**[1.14] Section 147B**

*substitute*

**147B Access to particulars of address**

- (1) For this division, the registrar may, in writing, ask a relevant person to give the registrar any details held by the person about an address of a stated person who is liable to pay a fine.
- (2) The relevant person must comply with the request as far as practicable.
- (3) In this section:

*relevant person* means—

- (a) the chief police officer; or
- (b) the housing commissioner; or
- (c) the chief executive (however described) of a government agency.

---

**[1.15] Section 154**

*substitute*

**154 Access to personal information**

- (1) To ensure the payment of an outstanding fine, the registrar may, in writing, ask a relevant person to give the registrar stated particulars of personal information held by the person about the fine defaulter.
- (2) The relevant person must comply with the request as far as practicable.
- (3) In this section:

*personal information*, about a fine defaulter, means details about the defaulter's financial circumstances or criminal record.

*relevant person* means—

- (a) the chief police officer; or
- (b) the housing commissioner; or
- (c) the chief executive (however described) of a government agency.

**Part 1.8 Residential Tenancies Act 1997**

**[1.16] Section 107A (6)**

*substitute*

- (6) If the application is in relation to premises leased under an approved housing assistance program under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*, the tribunal must not make an order under subsection (5) that is inconsistent with the eligibility criteria under the program.

**[1.17] Section 127A (3)**

*omit*

housing assistance programs under the *Housing Assistance Act 1987*

*substitute*

approved housing assistance programs under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*

**[1.18] Schedule 1, clause 36**

*substitute*

- 36 (1) This clause applies if—
- (a) the housing commissioner is the lessor under this tenancy agreement; and
  - (b) the commissioner has decided to increase the rent after a review of rent under the *Housing Assistance Act 2006*, section 23.
- (2) Despite clause 35, the housing commissioner may increase the rent.
- (3) However, if a previous review of rent has been undertaken, the increase under subclause (2) must not take effect earlier than 1 year after the date the last rent increase for the premises took effect.

**[1.19] Further amendments, references to *commissioner for housing***

*omit*

commissioner for housing

*substitute*

housing commissioner

*in*

- section 10 (5)
- section 15 (5) and (6)
- section 107C (2), definition of *entity*
- section 127A (2)

**Part 1.9 Supreme Court Act 1933**

**[1.20] Section 49A (3), definition of *relevant person***

*substitute*

*relevant person* means—

- (a) the chief police officer; or
- (b) the housing commissioner; or
- (c) the chief executive (however described) of a government agency.

## Part 1.10 Uncollected Goods Act 1996

### [1.21] Sections 13 (c) and 27A

*omit*

commissioner for housing

*substitute*

housing commissioner

## Part 1.11 Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 1983

### [1.22] Section 63 (a) to (c)

*substitute*

- (a) the chief police officer;
- (b) the housing commissioner;
- (c) the chief executive (however described) of a government agency.

## Dictionary

(see s 3)

*Note 1* The Legislation Act contains definitions and other provisions relevant to this Act.

*Note 2* For example, the Legislation Act, dict, pt 1 defines the following terms:

- chief executive (see s 163)
- commissioner for revenue
- entity
- exercise
- function
- human rights commission
- Minister (see s 162)
- planning and land authority
- territory land
- year.

***approved housing assistance program*** means a housing assistance program approved under section 19.

***Commonwealth-Territory funding agreement***—see section 30.

***community housing*** means rental housing for—

- (a) people on low and moderate incomes or with special needs; or
- (b) nonprofit community organisations.

***eligible***, for housing assistance—see section 8.

***housing***—

- (a) means residential housing and other forms of residential accommodation; and
- (b) includes the fences, outbuildings and other improvements and the connections for utilities and other services provided or reasonably required for the accommodation.

- 1            *housing assistance*—see section 7.  
2            *housing assistance program*—see section 18.  
3            *housing commissioner* means the Commissioner for Social Housing  
4            established under section 9.  
5            *information* includes a document.  
6            *protected information*, for part 5 (Protection of information)—see  
7            section 28.
- 

## Endnotes

- 1        **Presentation speech**  
Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on        2006.
- 2        **Notification**  
Notified under the Legislation Act on                                2006.
- 3        **Republications of amended laws**  
For the latest republication of amended laws, see [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).
-