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**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT

**CREATION OF A
HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

NO.68 of 1992

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**(Circulated by authority of
Terence Connolly MLA
Minister for Housing and
Community Services)**

CREATION OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AUTHORITY

Section 12 of the Housing Assistance Act 1987 empowers the Commissioner for Housing to prepare, in the form of an instrument in writing, a housing assistance program or a variation to a program. Section 12 also empowers the Commissioner for Housing to revoke a program.

Such a program, variation or revocation may not be implemented without the approval of the responsible Minister. Following approval, the program or variation is required to be notified in the Gazette and laid before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with Section 6 of the Subordinate Laws Act 1989 where it may be disallowed.

BACKGROUND

The accompanying Supported Accommodation Assistance Program(SAAP) was prepared by:

It was notified in ACT Gazette No.

PURPOSE AND CONSEQUENCES

The purpose of the Program is to:

Provide recurrent funding to eligible organisations to enable them to provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services to people who are homeless and in crisis to help them move towards independent living, where appropriate, or other alternatives such as long term supported housing, as soon as possible.

The Program is consistent with the Commonwealth legislation that established the program, and it does not represent new policy as such. Gazettal of the Program formalises an arrangement that has been in place since 1985.

A summary of the Program is as follows:

Clause 1 provides the name of the Program.

Clauses 2 to 4 inclusive provide the principles, objects and definitions and interpretation and are self explanatory.

Clause 5 specifies the use of SAAP funds.

Clause 6 covers the administration of the Program.

Clause 7 describes the planning processes of the Program.

Clauses 8 to 9 inclusive specify the eligibility requirements and the arrangements for allocation of assistance.

Clause 10 covers the requirement for eligible organisations to enter in to a service agreement before receiving funds.

Clauses 11 to 12 specify the application process operating under the Program and the additional information requirements that may be placed on eligible organisations..

Clause 13 relates to the notification of decisions. The Program does not currently make provision for appeals of decisions regarding allocations as these approvals under the Program are made at a Ministerial level on the recommendation of a joint

Territory/Commonwealth committee. This is consistent with similar programs administered in the Territory. Negotiations on the introduction of internal and external appeals mechanisms for clients are currently under way with SAAP organisations. These will be incorporated in to the Program when finalised.

Clause 14 describes reporting requirements under the Program and is self explanatory.

Clause 15 specifies the secrecy provisions and is self explanatory.