



**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT 1987

**CREATION OF
HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

No 78 of 1991

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

CREATION OF CRISIS ACCOMMODATION HOUSING 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 Crisis Accommodation Housing Assistance Program(CAHAP) was prepared by:

It was notified in ACT Gazette No. ACT Special Gazette No. 88

PURPOSE AND CONSEQUENCES

The purpose of the Program is to:

Provide capital funds for the accommodation of people who are homeless and in crisis, in accordance with the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement(CSHA) and Commonwealth Guidelines through the provision of dwellings to;

.organisations subsidised by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program(SAAP), which assists people who are homeless and in crisis, through the provision of financial assistance to

eligible organisations for Supported Accommodation Services and related support services; and

.other eligible organisations providing supported or unsupported accommodation services for people who are homeless and in crisis.

This Program is consistent with Commonwealth Guidelines, and does not represent new policy as such. Gazettal of this Program formalises an arrangement that has been in operation in the ACT since the early eighties.

A summary of the Program follows;

Clauses 1 to 4 provide the objects, definitions and interpretation , and relationship to Commonwealth Guidelines, and are self explanatory.

Clause 5 describes the requirements for the development of an ACT Plan to inform prospective applicants of the adopted priorities for the Program.

Clause 6 specifies the use of all Funds and is self explanatory.

Clauses 7 to 8 specify the administrative requirements of the Program, including the establishment of advisory structures.

Clauses 9 to 11 inclusive cover the eligibility for, and allocation of assistance, detailing the requirements for Eligible Organisations , and the form of agreement entered into between the Commissioner for Housing and Eligible Organisations for assistance.

Clause 12 specifies the rent level determinations for the Program, and arrangements for variations to, and payment of rent.

Clauses 13 to 14 describe the process for application for assistance, and the information required to

support applications.

Clause 15 relates to notification of decisions. The Program does not make provision for appeals as the approval of projects under the Program is made at Ministerial level on the recommendations of a joint Commonwealth/Territory Committee. This approach is consistent with Commonwealth Guidelines and similar programs administered in the Territory.

Clause 16 describes reporting requirements under the Program and is self explanatory.

Clause 17 specifies the secrecy provisions and is self explanatory.