



The National Housing Report

23 July, 2009 – Issue 3.1 UPDATE
Aged & Community Services Australia

In the last edition of the National Housing Report we reported that ACSA has been lobbying the Federal Government to liaise with the State Governments to amend guidelines for participation in the Economic Nation Building Stimulus Package which aims to build 20,000 new social housing units over the next few years.

The Federal Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, has recognised these concerns and responded in the letter, published on the right. Ms Plibersek has indicated the Government's support for innovative housing developments and said that the Government receives information on all bids including those not recommended by state or territory governments.

Some ACSA members have not applied for funding based on discussions with state governments while others have submitted "non-conforming" bids.

Based on the Minister's letter, providers should continue to discuss their proposals with their respective state governments, particularly Housing coordinators, and submit their proposals.



The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for the Status of Women

MC09-013512

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Dear Mr Mundy

Thank you for your letter of 15 May 2009 about the Australian Government's Social Housing Initiative. I understand that you have been in contact with Pia van de Zandt in my office about issues for your members.

I understand the concerns you have raised and appreciate you taking the time to write to me about these important issues. I have discussed a number of these issues with my State and Territory colleagues.

As you are aware, there are many aged pensioners currently on the priority waiting list for public housing. I have required States and Territories to build in a minimum level of accessibility standards so that we are building appropriate accommodation for older people.

The Commonwealth Government would like to see bids from as many areas as possible, including the aged care sector. Projects that allow older people to age in place by combining affordable rental housing with aged care services make good sense and will be attractive to many people.

Under the assessment process, the Australian Government will receive information on all bids put to each jurisdiction, including those that are not recommended by the relevant State and Territory.

I encourage you and your members to continue discussions with State and Territory Governments, particularly each of the Housing Coordinators. Details for the Housing Coordinators can be found at www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au. Please follow the "Housing" link and then the link to the FAHCSIA website.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Plibersek

3.7.09

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