



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Universal Housing for Everyone

Ensuring Canberra's houses and buildings meet universal design standards

Older Canberrans and people with disabilities need somewhere to live, just like everyone else. They need a place to call home and spend time with the people they love. Our plan will mean more of Canberra's buildings and homes are accessible and safe for everyone.

Canberra has a shortage of accessible housing.

Now more than ever, we need housing that meets the needs of an ageing population and people with disability.

But we have a huge shortage of accessible housing in Canberra that meets the needs of people with disabilities and our ageing population.

Many Canberrans face major barriers trying to find somewhere to live – especially when they have particular needs. Often, housing is inaccessible and difficult and expensive to modify.

That means that instead of being able to live in their own homes, people are forced into hospital, paying higher home care costs or having to fork out for specialist accommodation or home modifications.

> High-Quality Design

Everybody should have a home that suits their needs and allows them to live with dignity.

We know that older people have particular housing needs. They need options that suit their circumstances and respect their wishes – including ageing in place. The Greens also believe that people with disabilities should have access to secure housing options that meet their needs and wishes.

That's why the Greens will put the community first with a plan to make sure that more of our homes and buildings meet universal design standards by 2020.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Establish a transition plan in consultation with industry to ensure all new homes and apartments achieve the Liveable Housing Design Silver Level by 2020.

- » Work with industry to develop training programs for architects and builders.
- » Work with Housing ACT, the community sector, disability sector and the aged care sector to ensure all new ACT Government housing meets the Liveable Housing Design Silver Level.
- » To meet the needs of residents with specific needs, the ACT Greens will work with Housing ACT, the disability sector and the ageing sector to provide targeted Liveable Housing Design Gold Level standard government housing and demonstration projects.

> Fighting for National Action

Even though we have a 2010 COAG agreement in the National Disability Strategy that all new housing meets Universal Design Standards by 2020, it isn't mandatory – and the voluntary approach has failed.

The Greens want the ACT Government to push for a national plan to meet the 2020 targets for Universal Housing.

The need for housing with universal design standards is only going to grow. Now is the time work with industry to ensure all members of our community can access housing that suits their needs.



AN AGE-FRIENDLY CITY

Age-Friendly Communities For Canberra

The Greens will expand Canberra's age-friendly communities program

The ACT Greens believe that a well-functioning society values all of its members. That means that our suburbs and our city should be safe, accessible and easy to navigate for all people.

Age-friendly is really just 'people friendly' – and it's also environmentally friendly. Cities that are designed to be age-friendly are safe, slower-speed environments that encourage walking, cycling, and outdoor activity.

These qualities also make cities more environmentally friendly.

That's why the Greens will put the community first, and fund an expanded age-friendly communities program across Canberra.

> Our Plan

The ACT Greens believe that a well-functioning society values all of its members. That means that our suburbs and our city should be safe, accessible and easy to navigate for all people.

The ACT Greens will provide an additional \$4 million dollars over four years to roll out age-friendly communities across Canberra.

This will fund the design and construction of age-friendly improvements across Canberra, support engagement with aged-care providers and older people, and improve planning and design standards for future development.

Every age friendly community is different. We will work with community stakeholders, including older people and groups representing them, to ensure that our age friendly communities meet the special needs of older people where they live or work.

Improvements could include:

- » Green spaces and walkways. These would be well-maintained and safe green spaces with shelter, toilet facilities and seating facilities for older people to enjoy.
- » Outdoor seating available in a variety of places including parks, transport stops and public spaces.

» Footpaths and shared paths that are well-maintained and well-connected, linked to local facilities, designed to accommodate wheelchairs and prams, and including low curbs.ⁱ

» Road improvements, including crossings and slower traffic. This could include raised, non-slip pedestrian crossings; crossing lights that allow enough time for older people to cross; slower traffic speeds to improve safety.

ⁱ The Greens will make further specific announcements about maintaining, upgrading and expanding our path network.

> A Bigger Investment

The ACT's age-friendly suburb program was started by Greens MLA Shane Rattenbury when he was Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, and Ageing, but it was limited by the amount of funding the Government approved.

Our plan will invest a further \$4 million to expand age-friendly communities to make more of our suburbs and our city accessible to everyone.



SUPPORTING CANBERRA'S MOST VULNERABLE And Investing in Services

The ACT Greens believe that housing is a basic human right, that between housing and homelessness is a continuum, and that we need a range of strategies that address prevention, early intervention, crisis support and longer-term stable accommodation.

The ACT has unacceptably high numbers of people experiencing, or at risk of being, homeless. The ACT Greens believe that housing is a basic human right, that between housing and homelessness is a continuum, and that we need a range of strategies that address prevention, early intervention, crisis support and longer-term stable accommodation.

Many Canberrans will have seen someone sleeping rough or know someone who hasn't had anywhere to stay. The ACT Greens are committed to doing all we can to ending homelessness and investing in crisis support services for Canberrans who don't have anywhere to stay.

> Additional funding for the Early Morning Centre

The Early Morning Centre provides support to Canberrans who are currently homeless and those who have experienced chronic homelessness in the past.

It provides direct services such as breakfast as well as connecting people with essential medical, legal and support services.

However, over the last three years the ACT Government has reduced EMC's core grant funding by 25% - despite EMC continuing to respond to a high level of demand. The ACT Greens are strong supporters of the EMC and will:

- » Provide an additional \$100,000 per year in base funding to meet their immediate needs; and
- » Provide a one-off investment of \$50,000 to support the continued development of a new business model, including the development of a fundraising plan and a robust impact evaluation process.

> Support for after hour referrals

The ACT government has recently created a new, single point of contact for access to all human services in the ACT called "One Link". While the ACT Greens are supportive of this approach, we are concerned that their hours of operation are limited to 8am to 6pm from Monday to Friday.

We know that homelessness and crisis does not follow business hours. That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Fund an additional 10 hours of operation - extending open hours until 8pm on Friday and provide for four hours on Saturday and Sunday.



MAKING HOUSING AFFORDABLE

For all Canberrans

Our plan to take real action on housing affordability

The ACT Greens believe that everyone should have somewhere safe, secure and decent to live. That is why we will invest in affordable housing for all Canberrans.

Housing affordability affects many Canberrans - new homeowners and vulnerable communities alike. The Greens are committed to helping first home owners enter the market, supporting low income earners to find sustainable and secure tenancies and ensuring vulnerable members of our community have somewhere safe and decent to live. The ACT Greens are committed to improving affordable housing for those in need.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Adopt the principle that wherever possible 10% of housing on all infill sites owned by government be dedicated to affordable housing.
- » Develop a new Affordable Housing Action Plan that will put the community first and achieve real progress towards targets;
- » Review the income/asset test for the target of 20% Greenfields housing to make sure the Plan is meeting this target;
- » Create and maintain a permanent Affordable Housing Action Plan steering committee, made up of community, government and industry stakeholders to oversee the effective implementation of the Affordable Housing Action Plan;
- » Include a representative from the social housing sector on the Land Development Agency Board to help guide decision making; and

- » Create a more even spread of social and affordable housing across Canberra by developing a clear and transparent “salt and pepper” policy that will guide future developments.

The ACT Greens will put the community back into the LDA:

Government Land Organisations have a key role to play in urban development. They can address market failure by providing leading edge developments that showcase housing affordability, energy efficiency and design excellence. However in Canberra, there is currently a perception in the community that the ACT’s Land Development Agency is largely driven by financial interests and is not operating within a rigorous and community endorsed planning framework.

The ACT Greens will broaden the expertise of the LDA Board to include:

- » A representative from the social and/or affordable Housing Sector
- » Expertise in innovation and design excellence;
- » A community representative; and
- » It will be required to report publicly against key performance measures.



PEOPLE BEFORE DEVELOPERS

Bringing Nightingale to Canberra.

Our plan to ensure people, not developers, shape our community and our homes.

The ACT Greens believe that our homes and communities should be designed to meet the needs of the people living and using them - not developers.

The Greens want to see new models of affordable housing that allow people to be involved in the shaping of their community and their developments. That's why we want new models that disrupt the status quo – starting by bringing the Nightingale Housing Model to Canberra.

The ACT Greens are committed to improving affordable housing for all Canberrans. That's why we will bring more affordable housing to Canberra, and improve the energy efficiency of existing housing, to drive down the cost of living.

> Bringing Nightingale to Canberra

The Nightingale model reduces the cost of development and ensures that people can afford to live near employment, transport connections, family and social groups, without sacrificing financial, social and ecological sustainability.

The Nightingale model brings home purchasers into decision making to ensure that we are building housing that meets the needs of future tenants. That may mean making sure the house is suitable for children, people with disabilities or older people.

The Nightingale model guarantees properties that are powered by 100% clean energy, have a minimum 7.5 star energy efficiency rating and cap the profit margin to 15% to keep housing affordable.

Nightingale could support aspiring first home buyers who are locked out of the housing market.

While the Nightingale model can operate without financial support, the ACT Greens are committed to bringing Nightingale to Canberra and will facilitate this by investing funds to:

- » Identify appropriate sites for Nightingale developments; and
- » Support and facilitate planning delivery.



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Investing in frontline services

The ACT Greens will support people doing it tough

The ACT Greens are committed to ending homelessness in our city and better funding the homelessness and housing services who support people without somewhere to live.

ACT homelessness service providers have shown incredible resilience in the face of funding cuts and uncertainty. However, with more homelessness and clients with increasingly complex needs, we must do more to support our frontline services with prevention, early intervention crisis and longer term programs.

> Funding frontline services

Our frontline homelessness services provide crucial support to many Canberrans doing it tough.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$4 million in the homelessness sector to ensure that vulnerable Canberrans can get the support they need at the right time, for the right length of time, no matter where they are on the homelessness continuum; and
- » \$2 million over 4 years towards women's crisis accommodation services

> Build MyHome in Canberra

Many people experiencing homelessness suffer from a mental health disorder of some type and may struggle to engage with mainstream services. To support people with enduring mental illness, we will design and construct MyHome in Canberra - a facility of around 22 individual housing units which will provide a safe and supportive home

and high quality care for people with mental illness, and other support including assistance in cooking, cleaning, budgeting, shopping and gardening. This initiative builds on the incredible success of the CommonGround homelessness project the ACT Greens delivered through the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement.

> Responding to homelessness through a lens of trauma

The majority of people who find themselves homeless have suffered some kind of trauma in their lives. Addressing homelessness through a lens of understanding trauma and how it impacts on people's lives and decisions, could significantly improve the way that we deliver services.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$350,000 to develop a system-wide approach to supporting people seeking housing who have a lived experience of trauma; and
- » Invest \$100,000 for resources, professional development and training for the Specialist Housing and Homeless Service Providers

> Annual Homelessness Summit

The ACT Greens support ACTCOSS's calls for a more genuine whole of government approach to homelessness.

That is why the ACT Greens will:

» Establish an annual Homelessness Summit that brings together representatives from Cabinet, government directorates, and the community and business sectors, to address homelessness and housing challenges in our community.

Each year the forum will produce an ACT Homelessness “white paper” highlighting areas of progress and concerns and suggesting recommendations.



MORE COMMUNITY HOUSING

Investing in housing for all Canberrans

More community housing for more people in our community

The ACT Greens understand that we need more affordable housing in Canberra. That's why we are committed to growing the community housing stock - for everyone.

The community housing sector in Canberra is small, strong and growing, but needs more support from government to be sustainable. There is growing need for specific approaches to support Indigenous housing models, newly arrived communities, students and people with disabilities in particular.

The ACT Greens will continue to break down concentrations of disadvantage and promote social inclusion by increasing the construction of new, energy efficient and socially inclusive community housing across Canberra.

> Increasing community housing stock

The ACT Greens are committed to growing the community housing stock. As Minister for Housing Shane Rattenbury secured an ACT Government commitment to grow the public housing stock for the first time in a decade. Now it is time to support and grow the stock of community housing in the ACT.

The ACT Greens will invest \$21 million to:

- » Build additional and dedicated community housing across Canberra over and above the existing housing program; and
- » Invest in a new housing co-operative scheme targeted at older women.

> Helping public housing tenants purchase their own home

The ACT has a long and proud history of helping people into stable accommodation through Housing ACT public and social housing.

However, in recent years the policy of supporting people to purchase their home as their financial circumstances improve has fallen flat.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Support an Independent Review into the existing Shared Equity Scheme to deliver a better targeted and utilised program and provide eligible tenants with more up to date information and support to access loans.



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BETTER DEVELOPMENT

For the Community, by the Community

The Greens will take on shoddy developers

As our city grows, we need to protect the quality of our homes and our neighbourhoods. We can create spaces that promote community and protect the things we love about Canberra while planning for our changing needs.

As our city grows, the ACT Greens believe that we should set a high standard for the quality of our homes and our neighbourhoods. We have an opportunity to create spaces that promote community, and protect the things we love about our bush capital, while planning for our changing needs. The ACT Greens want to see cutting-edge urban design that delivers great, connected neighbourhoods. Our homes and communities are so important to our quality of life, and everyone should be able to benefit from good urban design.

The Greens support urban infill in appropriate locations as an alternative to suburban sprawl on the city's fringe. This requires urban design excellence at the precinct scale, including buildings and the public domain. Urban planning needs to address issues of increasing urban density, an ageing population, the need to reduce pollution and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

It is essential that the community is fully engaged with the decisions we make about our city. Canberra should be built by, and for, our community - not big developers.

> Community-Led Design

The ACT Greens believe that it should be the people of Canberra, not the big developers, who decide how we build our city. Our city should be designed to work for young and old, for today and into the future.

We are committed to having a meaningful conversation about the future of our city with everyone in our community. That means having a dialogue with existing residents who wish to maintain the qualities of the communities that they have helped develop as well as younger people who aspire to live in a vibrant city with housing options to rent or buy, including in established areas.

The ACT Greens are committed to facilitating and engaging broad, inclusive and meaningful conversation around the future of our city through a process of deliberative democracy.

At a minimum, the ACT Greens will ensure the Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation (as defined by the

International Association for Public Participation):

- » Those affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process;
- » There is a promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision;
- » Sustainable decisions recognise and communicate the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers;
- » Those potentially affected by, or interested in a decision are sought out and their involvement facilitated;
- » Participants have input in designing how they participate;
- » Participants are provided with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way; and
- » Participants are communicated with on how their input affected the decision.

We will also explore:

- » Hosting citizens' forums on planning and development to have an open conversation about the different needs and aspirations of members of our community, for our city;
- » Better notification of proposed territory plan changes;
- » Bringing back neighbour consultation, for example where large two story buildings are proposed in existing areas; and
- » Providing secretariat support to assist community councils do their work.

> Re-Establish the Independence of the Planning Authority

Canberrans deserve to have confidence in the planning of their city. That's why the ACT Greens will re-establish the independence of the Planning Authority.

There is currently a conflict of interest, both real and perceived, with the Government's land development arm taking on more of a

planning function outside of the guidance of the planning authority. This includes taking the lead on planning for specific development proposals and strategic purchases of land.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Commit \$250,000 to re-establishing the independence of the Planning Authority;
- » Reinforce the legislative powers, including through the Administrative Arrangements of the separate entities, so that strategic planning takes precedence over the land development arm of government. This means land development would take place within a framework established by an independent Planning Authority.

> Restructure the Land Development Agency

Government Land Organisations have a key role to play in urban development. They can address market failure by providing leading edge developments that showcase housing affordability, energy efficiency and design excellence.

Around Australia, some of the best examples of urban infill and greenfield developments have been delivered by Government Land Organisations.

However in Canberra, there is currently a perception in the community that the ACT's Land Development Agency is largely driven by financial interests and is not operating within a rigorous and community endorsed planning framework.

The ACT Greens support the principle of a Government Land Organisation, but will redefine the role of the Land Development Agency to enhance its social licence. The ACT Greens will put the community first and

ensure that the LDA operates within a framework defined by the Planning Authority. The LDA will also be benchmarked against best practice Government Land Organisations, in terms of delivering innovative, high quality urban developments and affordable housing.

The ACT Greens will broaden the expertise of the LDA Board to include:

- » A representative from the social / affordable housing sector
- » Expertise in innovation and design excellence; and
- » A community representative

And, it will be required to report publicly against key performance measures.

> Review Territory Plan to Support Smarter, Greener Developments

As our city grows, we need to protect our urban open spaces while at the same time encouraging positive development in our transport corridors and town centres.

We look to cities that are leading the way and developing new and innovative models of housing close to key fixed public transport routes, such as Portland, Vancouver and Melbourne. And, we must catch up with the rest of the world and improve the sustainability of our greenfield and infill developments.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Undertake reviews of relevant Residential and Estate Development Codes and land release practices to ensure housing diversity and innovative design in new developments. For example, recommendations that may emerge from a review could include developing estate guidelines to optimise

solar access to all dwellings or alternative block types to deliver compact homes, small scale multi-unit developments and larger apartments suited to families.

- » Work with the community to review residential codes in established areas, to ensure protection of the existing look and feel of suburbs while allowing for more strategic block consolidation. For example, a review may find that there are opportunities for more sustainable townhouses, with good solar access, landscaping and better traffic arrangements. This would help first home owners in established areas and support downsizing for older Canberrans.

- » Encourage compact and innovative housing including private-public partnerships for small-scale affordable housing developments, for example through targeted land supply.

- » Relax commercial zoning in targeted areas to support small-scale mixed-use precincts to achieve increased affordable housing in and around local and group centres and close to public transport.

> Urban Design Centre of Excellence

The Greens support urban infill in appropriate locations to mitigate against urban sprawl as our city grows. However, it is essential that this is of high quality design at the building and precinct scale.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Establish an Urban Design Centre of Excellence to provide feedback and advice about conditions of sale and design review for proposals at key sites and for ACT housing stock;
- » Upgrade of the role of Government Architect with the support of an Urban Design Studio and independent design

expertise through a Design Review Panel and existing staff from EPD and EDD; and
» In areas of national significance explore how to improve and expand an approach of genuine partnership between Commonwealth and Territory Governments where land, planning resources and development controls are shared to ensure a quality of development that reflects the significance of the National Capital. This would include developments such as the Australia Forum, City to the Lake, ANZAC Parade and Constitution Avenue.

> Better Apartment Design

With increased urban densification, an aging population and a changing climate - it is vital that apartments and townhouses are designed and constructed to a higher standard.

NSW has an Apartment Design Guide (SEPP 65) that delivers improved solar access, cross ventilation, sense of place, appearance from the street and room for deep rooted tree plantings. The guide recognises that design quality is best achieved through shared responsibility including mandating the involvement of an architect, and good decision making through the use of design review panels. Right now the quality of much of the apartment design in Canberra would not be allowed in NSW. Victoria also has a Draft Apartment Design Standard, proposing that all new apartments provide adequate daylight, storage and ventilation. This standard addresses building setbacks, room depth, accessibility, waste, water and energy efficiency, open space and noise minimisation. The Victorian Standard requires that planning applications meet set standards. However, alternative plans can show how liveability will be ensured through design solutions,

encouraging innovation and best-practice planning.

The ACT Greens will improve apartment design by:

» Establishing new design standards for apartments to ensure the ACT meets Australia's best practice. The ACT Planning and Land Authority would benchmark the NSW Apartment Design Guide (SEPP 65) as a priority to deliver for example, better solar access, cross ventilation, sense of place and appearance from the street and space for deep rooted plantings.

» Adopting principles in the Victorian Apartment Design Standard. The ACT Planning and Land Authority would amend the framework of regulations in order to reward design excellence and innovation. This would include incentives for the delivery of publicly beneficial outcomes such as affordable housing and enhanced public realm.

> Improved Building Certification

Many Canberrans have been let down by shoddy construction and certification. They've had to live with apartment defects such as major water leaks, falling render and cracking in new units and apartments.

Since 2009, complaints about builders, building work and defects have doubled, at more than 350 every year. The Canberra community deserves better than this. Every Canberran should have confidence in the quality of construction of the buildings they live and work in.

Right now, property developers can pick and choose their own building certifiers. The community does not have confidence in developers getting their mates to check their work. That's why the ACT Greens will put the

community first and end the close relationship between developers and certifiers. We will require better assessment of the quality of buildings throughout the construction process.

The ACT Greens will improve construction standards by:

- » Establishing a Panel of Independent Auditors to conduct mandatory annual audits of building certifiers. The ACT Planning and Land Authority will randomly allocate an Auditor from the Panel to assess the work of all certifiers. Failure to comply would result in cancellation of licence to operate and criminal penalties.
- » Working with industry to establish a schedule of additional mandatory assessments that certifiers are required to carry out at various stages during the construction process, particularly at the critical stage of waterproofing and to ensure compliance with Energy Efficiency Ratings (EER).

Industry would largely cover the cost of this initiative with the Certifier making payment to the Auditor as a cost of doing business. Any additional cost to building purchasers from this initiative would be insignificant compared with the current costs of repairs and maintenance in many apartments.

There would be a role for Government, and some costs in administering the panel of Auditors.

> Energy Efficient Ratings

The community needs to be confident that energy ratings are actually being achieved. Buildings also need to be designed for the future, and not use EER systems designed for the past. Note: a comprehensive review

of ERR will be undertaken as outlined in further detail in the 'Green Homes' Initiative.

> Apartment Requirements for Sustainable Transport

The increase in apartment living and mixed use developments gives our city new opportunities for innovation in sustainable transport.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Require provision of a number of electric vehicle charging outlets in new multi unit developments.
- » Improve the Bicycle parking code in order to provide adequate space for residents bikes and bike parking for visitors outside;
- » Improve the provision and enforcement of accessible visitor parking and space for deliveries and emergency vehicles in mixed use buildings;
- » Adopt a more flexible approach to car parking provision in areas with good public transport, including light rail. This could include reduced car parking requirements, developer contributions to a parking offset fund, or provision of car share facilities. This will significantly reduce traffic congestion and the cost of new properties.

> Showcase Precincts

The ACT Greens will commit start up funds to create demonstration showcasing precincts over 2 years to showcase a range of housing typologies from compact through to larger 3 bedroom family apartments. These would be adaptable, energy efficient and include more affordable homes and apartments. These projects should demonstrate carbon neutral housing in operation.



MAKING HOMES MORE AFFORDABLE

For everyone, including renters

Our \$2.85 million plan to take real action on housing affordability with new renting models, and clean green homes that are less expensive to run.

The ACT Greens believe that everyone should have somewhere safe, secure and decent to live - including renters.

Almost one in three Canberrans rent, but since 2000 the average rent in Canberra has tripled making life tougher for many Canberrans.

The ACT Greens are committed to improving affordable housing all for Canberrans - including renters. That's why we will bring more affordable housing to Canberra, and improve the energy efficiency of existing rental properties, to drive down the cost of living.

> Bring HomeGround to Canberra

HomeGround Real Estate is a not-for-profit model which both increases the amount of affordable housing in Canberra and gives socially minded investors the option rent out their property at a reduced market rent or on a philanthropic basis to Canberrans in need.

HomeGround Real Estate provides professional property and tenancy management like any other agency. However, management fees are re-directed back into the Affordable Housing Initiative arm of the enterprise. HomeGround Real Estate is committed to achieving both a financial and social return on investments - and the ACT Greens will bring it to Canberra.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Create an innovation fund to support new approaches to affordable housing, starting with

establishing HomeGround Real Estate here in Canberra; and

- » Invest seed funding for the employment of a Real Estate Principal, finding a Community Housing Provider to partner with and undertake Tenancy Management and acquire a Real Estate License if required.

> Make renting more affordable

The ACT Greens believe that renters should not have to live in the freezing cold in winter, and roast in a hot box during summer, just to keep the bills down. That's why we will set a minimum standard of energy efficiency for rental properties to ensure that costs of energy aren't higher than they need to be for tenants.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Set minimum standard for rented properties that includes either meeting an EER 2 (before 2010) or a NATHERS rating of 6 for houses built after 2010; or ensuring roof insulation rated at R4.0 or above (where there is attic space) and draft sealing, including all external windows and doors;
- » Work with industry to review the EER system for home energy ratings and how it is applied in Canberra to support work being done by COAG nationally;
- » Set a new energy efficiency target of EER7 by 2020 for new houses;
- » Mandate energy efficient electric space heating for all new houses; and
- » Include home insulation as an activity under the Energy efficiency Improvement Scheme.

> Warmer homes for low income families

Living in inefficient homes and using old appliances often means that these families are spending more on energy, rather than saving money by using less energy. The ACT Greens don't believe that low income households should be locked out from the benefits of improvements in house design and energy efficient appliances.

The ACT Greens believe that we must make low incomes families the priority when it comes to support for energy efficiency, and that we have an obligation to put measures in place as soon as possible.

Currently the ACT Government provides funding for energy efficiency measures for people on low incomes. This delivers home energy assessments, efficient electric heating and cooling systems, draught proofing and for some, replacement energy efficient fridges, one of the biggest drains on energy in the home. Current programs target around 500 homes a year and many more people are waiting to receive these benefits. The ACT Greens are committed to expanding the low income energy efficiency programs to ensure more households can receive its benefits.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Double the funding for low income energy efficiency programs by investing an additional \$1 million per year over the next 2 years; and
- » Increase funding for community curtain programs by \$100,000 to ensure that the 200 people waiting for curtains can be supported by their community and receive free curtains.