



# A PLACE TO CALL HOME

## Universal Housing for Everyone

Ensuring Canberra's houses and buildings meet universal design standards

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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.

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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.