



ACT
Shelter

Working together for housing justice

Annual Report

2024/5

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Acknowledgement of Country

ACT Shelter acknowledges that we live, walk and work on the lands of the Ngunnawal, Ngambri and Ngarigu people. We pay our respects to their Elders – past and present.

We note Canberra's significance as a meeting place for neighbouring people: the Gundungurra to the north, the Ngarigo to the south, the Yuin on the coast, and the Wiradjuri inland.

As nations of the oldest continuing cultures in the world, we celebrate their enduring custodianship of the Capital Region. Sovereignty was never ceded. This land is, was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the significant gap between housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader population in the ACT. There is an urgent need to close that gap to improve the emotional, physical, social, and spiritual health and wellbeing of Canberrans who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We respect the principles of self-determination and the need to do with, not for, or to, First Australians.

ACT Shelter was established in 1975 by advocates who were working together for housing justice. In that spirit, we commit to amplifying community voices through our systemic advocacy and reminding elected representatives of the promises they made in the Closing the Gap agreement they signed with the Commonwealth, and the need to make good on those promises.

Our Organisation

Since 1975, ACT Shelter has been the peak body for housing justice in the ACT – advocating for the interests of people facing housing stress and homelessness, influencing housing policy, and working to ensure that every Canberran has access to a safe, secure, and affordable home.

On 16 February 1975, housing activists, tenants, students, union members, public servants, and representatives from the ACT Council of Social Service and the National Capital Development Commission gathered at University House, ANU, for the first meeting of the ACT branch of Shelter. In July of that year, ACT Shelter hosted its first local housing conference at the ANU, and in August, National Shelter held its inaugural national conference in Canberra. These events helped cement the foundations of the ACT's housing advocacy movement.

In 1996, ACT Shelter was formally incorporated and received government funding for the first time with the aims of alleviating housing poverty in the ACT by proactively lobbying for equitable access to, and outcomes from, our housing system, and working together with our members to progress the realisation of the Right to Adequate Housing for all Canberrans.

ACT Shelter adopts a rights-based, whole of housing system approach to our advocacy. We are an independent, member-based, not-for-profit peak organisation with more than 60 individual and organisational members.

Through engagement at a local level, the National Shelter Council, and partnerships with other peak organisations and researchers in housing and related fields, we are an informed voice to governments and other decision makers, providing policy and strategic advice and analysis on housing and related matters.

We operate with financial assistance from the ACT Government under the Peaks Funding Program.

Strategic Plan

Who we are

ACT Shelter is a not-for-profit peak organisation that provides advocacy and strategic advice on systemic housing issues affecting people in the ACT. We are an informed and independent voice on housing policy issues affecting the ability of people on low, moderate or no incomes to have a home that is safe, secure, appropriate, and affordable. The right to adequate housing for all Canberrans underpins everything we do.

Our Vision

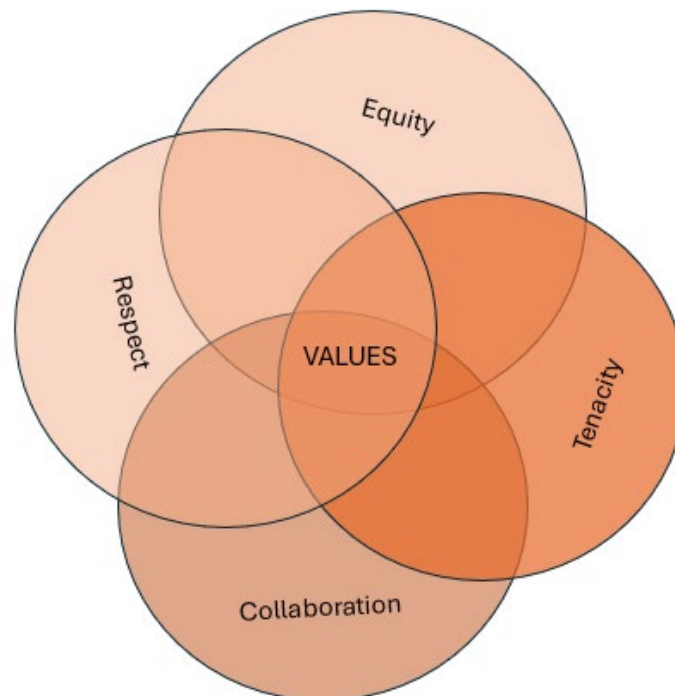
Everyone living in the ACT has a home that is safe, secure, appropriate, and affordable.

Our vision means a housing system where ... Renting is an attractive long-term housing choice. Social housing meets community needs. Home ownership is possible for every income. Homelessness is addressed.

Our Purpose

Working together for housing justice.

Our Values



Equity

We believe everyone is entitled to safe, secure, appropriate, and affordable housing. We prioritise the needs of people with low, moderate and no incomes. We understand the complexities of vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Respect

We engage with professionalism in our organisation, with members and with stakeholders. We believe that respectful relationships are fundamental to driving change.

Collaboration

We develop and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders. We participate in sector-level forums and partner with other organisations to maximise our impact. We are recognised for our expertise in systemic housing issues.

Tenacity

We focus on achieving our vision. We don't give up, even when the environment changes and the challenges seem impossible. We are resilient.

Our Goals

A strong voice for systemic housing justice.

Housing outcomes in the ACT are improved: every person can access a home that is safe, secure, appropriate, and affordable.

ACT Shelter is influential in all ACT government decisions on systemic housing issues.

There is a coordinated and informed sector response to advancing housing outcomes.

Candidates and political parties reflect ACT Shelter's advocacy.

Public discourse on housing reflects that housing is not just a commodity or financial investment: a secure home is a foundation for participating in community, socially, economically, and politically.

ACT Shelter is a capable and sustainable peak body.

Current funding level is retained in real terms, and additional funding is sought where needed to achieve our strategic intent.

Clear and effective governance and operational systems are in place.

Expert staff are recruited and retained.

Membership is representative of housing system stakeholders.

Executive Committee positions are filled with appropriately skilled volunteers.

ACT Shelter continues its effective collaboration on national housing policies with National Shelter.

Our People

ACT Shelter Executive Committee 2024/5

Chairperson

Lucy Hohnen (since 6 June 2025)

Jon Lawrence (acting, 14 April – 10 June 2025)

Josh Hewitt (to 17 February 2025)

Yvonne Gritschneider (to 4 October 2024)

Deputy Chairperson

Brooke McKail (since 10 June)

Secretary

Sarah Spiller

Treasurer

Prabhjot Singh (since 10 June 2025)

Jon Lawrence (to April 2025)

General Committee Members

Kate Gorman (since 17 June 2025)

Joshua Anlezark (since 12 June 2025)

Geoff Buchanan (since 17 May 2025)

Evie Kollas (since 5 June 2025)

Siobhan Cosgrave (to 10 April 2025)

Jennifer Rayner (25 November 2025 to 21 April 2025)

ACT Shelter staff

Chief Executive Officer

Corinne Dobson (since 3 April 2025)

Deb Phippen (acting, 23 November 2024 to 2 April 2025)

Travis Gilbert (to 22 November 2024)

Office Manager

Jane Griffiths

Policy & Research Coordinator

Deb Phippen

Public Officer

Deb Phippen



ACT Shelter Members 2024/25

ACT Shelter had 69 members in the financial year 2024/5

ACT Member Organisations (33)

ACT Council of Social Services	EveryMan
ACT Mental Health Consumer Network	Families ACT
ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service	Havelock Housing Association
Advocacy for Inclusion	Karinya House
Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drugs Association	Marymead CatholicCare CG
Barnardos	Meridian
Beryl Women Inc	Mental Health Community Co
Care Financial Counselling	Migrant & Refugee Settlement of ACT Inc
CHC Affordable Housing	Older Women Lost in Housing
Capital Regional Community Service	Safe Shelter
Canberra Youth Residential Service	Softlaw Community Projects
Carers ACT	Toora Women Inc
Council on the Ageing ACT	St Vincent de Paul
Doris Women's Refuge	Volunteering ACT
Early Morning Centre	Woden Community Service
ECHO Housing	Youth Coalition of the ACT
	YWCA

Individual Members (25)

Chris Aitchison	Barbara Chevalier
Caroline Ambrus	Darlene Cox
Elentari Berryman	Cameron Darling
Eddy Bourke	David Havercroft
Geoff Buchanan	Jon Lawrence
Nicholas Cheeseman	Penny Leemhuis

Michael Lindfield

Sarah Spiller

William Le-Roux Hitch

Peter Sutherland

Ian Lucas

Alex Wahlin

Evie Kollas

Clare Wall

Helen Merritt

Matthew Watts

Cathi Moore

Ed Wensing

Ray Polglaze

Angela Seymour

Interstate Member Organisations (6)

NSW Shelter

Shelter SA

NT Shelter

Shelter Tasmania

QLD Shelter

Shelter WA

National Member Organisations (3)

Homelessness Australia

National Shelter

Women's Services Network



Chairperson's Report

I wish to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Executive Committee for their confidence in my appointment and to our CEO, Corinne Dobson, for her outstanding leadership and tireless advocacy since taking up the role in April 2025. Corinne's energy, insight, and unwavering commitment to housing justice have been instrumental in guiding ACT Shelter through a period of transition and ensuring that housing remains firmly on the public agenda.

The 2024–25 financial year has been one of transition, consolidation, and reflection for ACT Shelter. The housing and homelessness sector continues to confront profound challenges: growing unaffordability in the private rental market, increased demand for social housing, and persistent gaps in the services available to support those experiencing housing stress. Throughout this year, ACT Shelter has remained steadfast in its mission to advocate for housing justice and amplify the voices of those most affected by housing insecurity. Despite operating under significant funding pressures, the organisation has continued to influence policy, engage the sector, and maintain its standing as the independent voice for housing in the ACT.

Governance and strategic oversight

The Executive Committee has maintained a strong focus on governance, meeting regularly to oversee the organisation's strategic direction, risk management, and financial stewardship. Key governance milestones this year included:

- Appointment of a new CEO, office bearers, and new Executive Committee members.
- Review and endorsement of the 2025–26 Budget, ensuring alignment with organisational priorities and financial sustainability.
- Oversight of risk management and policy frameworks to strengthen operational integrity.
- Establishment of a finance and governance subcommittee to provide focused guidance on critical organisational matters.
- Review and strengthening of financial systems and processes to support transparency and accountability.

I commend the Committee for its thoughtful deliberations and dedication to values-driven governance. Their guidance has been crucial in helping ACT Shelter navigate a year marked by change and uncertainty. I also wish to extend my particular thanks to outgoing Committee members whose expertise and commitment have helped sustain the organisation through periods of transition.

Strategic advocacy and sector engagement

ACT Shelter's advocacy has continued to make a meaningful difference this year. The organisation has engaged actively in policy debates, media commentary, and cross-sector forums, championing issues including rental reform, social housing investment, and tenant rights. Our collaboration with ACTCOSS and other sector peaks has

strengthened collective advocacy efforts, enabling a unified voice in addressing the pressing housing challenges facing Canberra.

Key advocacy achievements in 2024–25 include:

- Influencing rental reform policy through targeted submissions and public commentary.
- Collaborating with ACTCOSS to produce a housing and homelessness policy platform for the 2024 ACT election, outlining evidence-based solutions and priorities for the next government.
- Highlighting the urgency of social housing investment in government forums and budget consultations.
- Convening cross-agency roundtables and contributing to joint advocacy initiatives, strengthening sector collaboration.
- Leveraging ACT Shelter's 50th anniversary to raise public awareness and amplify our message through media engagement and public events.
- Advocating for the sustainability of ACT Shelter itself, highlighting the need for secure and adequate funding to continue delivering independent, high-quality advocacy.

Organisational development and milestones

This year marks a significant milestone: ACT Shelter's 50th anniversary. For half a century, the organisation has been the independent voice for housing justice in the ACT, sustaining advocacy and research even under minimal resourcing. The anniversary has provided an opportunity not only to celebrate this enduring legacy but also to reflect on the ongoing need for bold, evidence-driven policy change. The Committee has supported planning for anniversary activities that honour our history while enhancing the organisation's visibility and engagement.

In addition, the Committee endorsed a proposal to restructure membership categories, reflecting the diversity of our sector and strengthening member engagement. This initiative will enable ACT Shelter to better harness the insights of members in shaping policy and advocacy priorities.

Financial sustainability and funding advocacy

Financial sustainability remains a key focus. The 2024–25 year underscored the precarious nature of ACT Shelter's funding base, with the cessation of an advocacy grant posing real challenges to operational viability. In response, the Executive Committee and CEO have intensified efforts to secure more stable funding arrangements and have reviewed and strengthened financial systems and processes. These efforts are vital to ensure that ACT Shelter can continue to provide independent, evidence-based advocacy without compromise.

Acknowledgement of Executive Committee and staff

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of the Executive Committee, both outgoing and continuing, for their guidance and commitment during a year of change. To the ACT Shelter staff, I offer deep appreciation for their professionalism, resilience, and dedication. Their expertise and commitment have been central to sustaining ACT Shelter's influence and impact during a challenging year.

Future outlook

As we enter a new strategic cycle, ACT Shelter is well-positioned to deepen its impact and expand its reach, provided it can secure the modest funding it requires to maintain viability. Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Strengthening our policy platform and advocacy capacity.
- Enhancing governance and financial systems to secure long-term sustainability.
- Expanding partnerships across the housing and homelessness sector to leverage collective expertise and influence.
- Enhancing member engagement to draw on the insights of our community and sector stakeholders.
- Growing our membership base to strengthen our mandate and reach.

ACT Shelter remains committed to advocating for a fair, inclusive, and sustainable housing system. Housing is foundational to wellbeing, opportunity, and social justice, and our work will continue to focus on ensuring that all Canberrans have access to safe, secure, and affordable homes.

I extend my sincere thanks to all staff, Committee members, members, and stakeholders whose dedication, expertise, and collaboration make ACT Shelter's work possible. As the only organisation in the ACT wholly focused on housing and homelessness advocacy, ACT Shelter plays a unique and irreplaceable role in shaping policy, amplifying lived experience, and holding systems accountable.

While we celebrate 50 years of impact, the challenges ahead remain significant. The ongoing housing affordability crisis, coupled with funding pressures for the organisation itself, underscores the critical need for ACT Shelter's independent voice. I am confident that, with continued commitment from the Executive Committee, staff, members, and partners, ACT Shelter will remain a steadfast advocate for housing justice, now and into the future.

Lucy Hohnen – Chair

Chief Executive Officer's Report

It is a privilege to present my first CEO Report for ACT Shelter, particularly in a year of such significance. In 2024–25, ACT Shelter marked its fiftieth anniversary – a milestone that invites both celebration and reflection. For half a century, ACT Shelter has been the independent voice for housing justice in the nation's capital: a small organisation with a big remit, standing alongside those for whom safe, secure, affordable housing remains out of reach. It is an extraordinary legacy. Yet, as this year has made clear, our mission remains as urgent and unfinished as ever.



The conditions that led to ACT Shelter's formation in 1975 – poverty, homelessness, and a chronic shortage of affordable homes – persist today in new and more complex forms. Housing insecurity has escalated, costs have surged, and entrenched inequalities have deepened. At the same time, ACT Shelter's own future has come under strain. Chronic underfunding has long been a reality for Shelter, but in 2024–25 that pressure sharpened dramatically with the cessation of the systemic advocacy funding that sustained our full-time CEO position and supported dedicated policy capacity. This effectively halved our funding base and poses challenges to our operational viability.

Yet even in this constrained environment, the importance and value of ACT Shelter has never been clearer. In a city grappling with intensifying housing stress and inequality, ACT Shelter remains one of the few truly independent voices solely dedicated to housing justice. Governments, the media, sector partners, and communities continue to draw on our insights, evidence, and connections. Our role in supporting principled, informed advocacy cannot be overstated. The Territory needs a strong and independent housing peak, especially now.

Acknowledging leadership and transition

This year was also one of significant transition for the organisation. In November 2024, ACT Shelter farewelled long-standing CEO, Travis Gilbert, after a decade of dedicated service and tireless advocacy. Travis leaves a legacy of incisive policy leadership and a steadfast commitment to housing justice. His work helped position housing as a central issue in successive ACT elections, and strengthened ACT Shelter's relationship with members, partners, and policymakers alike. I offer my deep thanks to Travis for his extraordinary contribution.

I also wish to acknowledge Deb Phippen, who acted in the CEO role for five months and continues to make an invaluable contribution as Policy and Research Coordinator. Deb's experience, her strong relationships, and her steady leadership through an unsettled period ensured that our advocacy did not falter. My thanks also go to Barbara Chevalier, who stepped in during a staffing shortfall, and to Jane Griffiths, whose consistency and support as Office Manager has helped to keep the organisation running smoothly. Though I commenced in the CEO role only in April 2025, I have been struck by the resilience, skill, and generosity of this small but dedicated team. Their commitment has

ensured that ACT Shelter remains an influential and credible voice at a critical time, and I am deeply grateful for their resilience, professionalism, and care.

This year also brought significant change within the Executive Committee. I wish to acknowledge the dedication of outgoing members and those who joined us during 2024–25, and to especially recognise Sarah Spiller, who was the only continuing committee member throughout this year and whose steady presence and support were invaluable through a period of change and disruption. To all members of the Executive Committee – past and present – thank you. Your stewardship, diligence, and strategic guidance have been essential in helping ACT Shelter navigate a challenging year. I also extend my sincere thanks to Lucy Hohnen, who assumed the Chair role after a period of change and whose steady leadership and unfailing support has ensured the organisation remains strong and effectively governed.

I also acknowledge and thank our members, stakeholders, and the many individuals and organisations across the ACT who work tirelessly for housing justice. ACT Shelter’s work is deeply collaborative, and our impact is only possible because so many others share their expertise, experience, and commitment.

Housing policy at a critical juncture

Despite the resource constraints and organisational changes, ACT Shelter continued to play a pivotal role in housing advocacy throughout 2024–25. The year spanned both an ACT election and a Federal election, during which housing took centre stage. For the ACT election, ACT Shelter and ACTCOSS collaborated to develop a joint election platform that set out the scale of the crisis and the steps needed to change course.

The platform emphasised the reality of a housing system that is broken. A growing number of people face housing stress or homelessness; rental affordability remains a persistent challenge for many; and the proportion of social housing has shrunk, leaving too many people without secure, stable options. At the same time, homelessness services operate at capacity, often forced to turn people away.

In addition to election-focused advocacy, ACT Shelter also convened a forum on housing as a human right, which brought together members, sector partners, legal experts, academics, and advocates to explore the implications and opportunities of legislating the human right to housing in the ACT. The Forum was exceptionally well attended, strengthened our collective understanding of the issues, and generated valuable insights that helped inform contributions to the inquiry into the Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Bill. This Forum laid important groundwork for policy reforms that occurred later in 2025.

Throughout the year, a core focus of our advocacy was the need for a large-scale, sustained expansion of social housing. Social housing is the foundation of a fair housing system. It is also essential for social and economic infrastructure – fundamental to health, education, safety, participation, and community wellbeing. We urged (and continue to urge) the government to pursue generational reform, not incrementalism; ambition, not accommodation of the status quo. Alongside this, we continued to champion:

- stronger protections and stability for renters;

- investment in homelessness services that meets actual demand.
- improved housing pathways for people with disability, mental health issues, and complex needs; and
- action to close the housing gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Throughout the year, ACT Shelter continued to be a key point of contact for media, policymakers, and stakeholders. We worked to dispel myths, highlight lived experiences, and advocate for solutions grounded in evidence and humanity. Housing is not merely a market commodity; it is the bedrock of dignity, opportunity, and justice.

Looking ahead

As reflected elsewhere in this report, the funding environment has placed ACT Shelter in a precarious position. The loss of systemic advocacy funding poses challenges to our ongoing viability – at a time when the need for informed, independent housing justice advocacy is as relevant as ever.

Housing shapes every aspect of life: health, education, employment, safety, belonging. When people lack secure, affordable housing, all other outcomes suffer. While we acknowledge the steps governments at all levels are taking, we remain concerned that the pace and scale of reform do not match the urgency of the crisis. Accordingly, our commitment to continued influence, engagement, and policy leadership remains steadfast.

As we reflect on our 50th year, I am filled with gratitude for those who have sustained ACT Shelter over the decades—and those who continue this work today. The challenges ahead are formidable, but the purpose that drives us is unwavering. With ambition, collaboration, and sustained investment, we can build a future where every person has a safe, secure, and affordable place to call home.

ACT Shelter will continue to fight for that future—with clarity, with integrity, and with the unwavering belief that housing justice is essential to a fair and flourishing community.

Corinne Dobson – CEO

Highlights from our work

The 2024–25 year provided numerous opportunities for ACT Shelter to inform and influence decision-making across policy, program, funding, and service delivery reform processes. Housing continued to take centre stage in both public discourse and political debate, with unprecedented media attention and political focus on the circumstances facing renters and early-stage mortgage holders, along with the persistence and visibility of homelessness in the heart of the nation's capital. This focus was particularly amplified by the dual context of the ACT and Federal elections, creating a unique opportunity to elevate housing issues on both local and national agendas.

Law Reform

Following on from National Cabinet's Better Deal for Renters Rental of the previous year – where all state and territory governments agreed to harmonise and strengthen renters – rental reform remained a central focus across the nation.

At an ACT level, ACT Shelter undertook a range of work related to tenancy and other laws.

Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) Amendments 2024

In April 2024, the ACT Attorney-General tabled the Housing and Consumer Affairs Legislation Amendment Act 2024. The Bill covered a range of changes to different Acts and incorporated 60 amendments to the RTA, as well as other changes to the *Unit Titles (Management Act) and the Housing Assistance Act 2011*. The Bill was presented and passed on 26 June 2024. The Bill passed on 26 June 2024, with changes coming into effect in two phases on 10 December 2024 and 9 January 2025.

In response, ACT Shelter produced a [comprehensive resource](#) outlining the amendments and providing commentary to assist members, tenants, and stakeholders in understanding their practical implications.

RTA Reforms Consultation

In July 2024, the ACT Government launched a consultation seeking community input on improving tenancy and occupancy laws, including a focus on minimum standards for rental housing. In addition to minimum standards, they sought feedback on a range of other proposed property condition requirements to improve the efficiency and thermal comfort of rental homes. In response, ACT Shelter prepared a [detailed submission](#), drawing on both member insights and research evidence, to advocate for stronger protections for renters across the Territory.

National Engagement

ACT Shelter maintained active involvement with key national networks and advocacy bodies throughout the year, reinforcing our commitment to housing policy reform at both the ACT and national levels. This included collaborating and contributing to reports, research and national advocacy efforts, and participating in meetings with Federal

politicians and bureaucrats. Our CEO also attended the National Homelessness Conference.

The National Association of Renters' Organisations (NARO)

Following the de-funding and demise of the Tenants' Union in the ACT, ACT Shelter has maintained an active working relationship with the National Association of Renters' Organisations (NARO), the unfunded national network of tenant advocacy organisations and services.

Building on prior work responding to the Federal Government's Better Deal for Renters, together with [The National Nine - Principles for Strengthening Renters' Rights](#), ACT Shelter continued to work with NARO to call for urgent action to improve renters' rights nationwide. In August 2024, NARO produced [The Rental Report – A Better Deal for Renters](#), which was a performance report on the progress of A better Deal for Renters across state and territory jurisdictions. In the lead up to the Federal Election in May 2025, the Shelters and the NARO produced an updated report card which called for urgent, decisive action to give renters a fair go across all States and Territories. The [Progress on a Better Deal for Renters](#) report card assessed the progress of all states and territories in implementing the agreed targets, highlighting areas where reform is still required and providing a useful benchmark for advocacy efforts.

National Shelter

ACT Shelter is a member of the [National Shelter](#) Council. The Council brings together seven state and territory Shelters, the NARO, Australian Community Housing (which was established in 2024-25 out of the merger of the Community Housing Industry Association and Power Housing Australia), and national member organisations – the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing



Association, Rights and Inclusion Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society National Council, Faith Housing Australia, and Community Housing Limited.

The Shelter network is the primary vehicle through which we work to produce coordinated responses to decisions regarding housing and homelessness at a national level. Through the network we engage directly with federal ministers and bureaucrats.

Through the Council's National Policy Group, we develop national policy positions. ACT Shelter also contributes to the production of the annual National Shelter and SGSEP [Rental Affordability Index, an indicator](#) of rental affordability relative to household incomes.

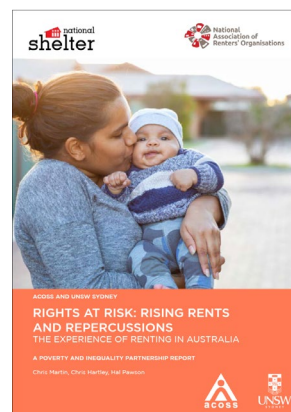
Rights at Risk: Rising Rents and Repercussions

Research by the ACOSS/UNSW Sydney–led Poverty and Inequality Partnership, National Shelter and the NARO. ACT Shelter contributed to this work via both national peaks.

[The report](#) provides new evidence about the experience of renting in the Australian private rental sector and has helped to inform the ongoing discussion of rental housing policy.

Homelessness Australia and Australians for Ending Homelessness

ACT Shelter maintained active engagement with both [Homelessness Australia](#) and [Australians for Ending Homelessness](#), participating in regular national forums, policy discussions, and collaborative initiatives to strengthen sector capacity and advocacy.



Community Housing Industry Association

ACT Shelter was an invited guest at fortnightly national hook-ups with the [Community Housing Industry Association](#) (CHIA), together with Power Housing Australia, CHIA state affiliates, and state and territory Shelter affiliates in jurisdictions where there is no funded CHIA affiliate. We have long enjoyed good working relationships with the CHIA, and its predecessor, the Community Housing Federation of Australia, through our respective memberships of the National Shelter Council.

Australian Community Housing (ACH) was formed in June 2025 through the merger of the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) and Power Housing Australia. ACT Shelter looks forward to working with ACH, the new national peak body representing the community housing sector in Australia.

ACT Engagement

ACT Shelter was deeply involved in local forums, advisory groups, and collaborative initiatives aimed at improving housing and homelessness outcomes across the Territory. Key activities included:

- Regular participation in advisory bodies, interagency forums, reference groups and taskforces, including the ACT Housing Solutions Innovation Group, Joint Pathways Executive and Network, and the Community Housing Industry Association (ACT Region), Homeless Connect steering committee, the Housing Supply Working Group (convened by Rights and Inclusion Australia)
- Engagement with networks focused on populations at heightened risk of housing injustice, including the Elder Abuse Network; Housing for Health, Rights and Inclusion Australia; the Australian Services Union housing and homelessness network; and youth-focused initiatives such as the Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum.

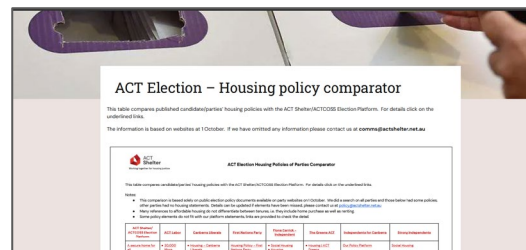


- Interjurisdictional networks and working groups, such as the Queanbeyan Homelessness Leadership Collaboration.
- Meetings with MLAs, Ministers, and ACT Government officials to ensure the lived experiences of renters and people experiencing housing stress and homelessness inform policy and program development.

ACT Election

ACT Shelter/ACTCOSS 2024 Election Platform

In the lead-up to the 2024 ACT election, ACT Shelter collaborated with ACTCOSS to develop a joint housing and homelessness election platform. This platform outlined evidence-based reforms and investments required to address Canberra’s housing crisis, with a focus on transformational investment in social housing. Following the election, the platform continues to guide ACT Shelter’s advocacy priorities for the current term of government.



Housing policy comparator

To assist ACT voters with an interest in housing and related issues, ACT Shelter also produced a housing election policy comparator to inform voters about candidates’ positions on key housing issues.

Forums and events



In May 2025, ACT Shelter members and other community stakeholders with an interest in housing joined our [forum](#) exploring the bill to enshrine the right to housing in the ACT's Human Rights Act. The bill was introduced in the ACT Legislative Assembly in April.

We also collaborated with ACT Shelter to produce submission templates for individuals and community, to support contributions to the ACT Legislative Assembly's inquiry into the bill.

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Information and Harm Reduction training

In partnership with Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Association (ATODA ACT), Shelter promoted their Alcohol Prevention Package ACT (APPA) training for housing sector workers 23 October, 25 February, 25 March and 6 May.

Policy and research

We undertook a range of policy, research and advocacy work during the year including:

- [Joint Submission to the 2025–26 ACT Budget: Calling for Continuation of the Rent Relief Fund \(June 2025\)](#)
- [Inquiry into Human Rights \(Housing\) Amendment Bill 2025 \(June 2025\)](#)
- [ACT Shelter submission to the 2025–26 ACT Budget consultation \(February 2025\)](#)

We also collaborated with National Shelter and NARO to produce:

- [The Rental Report – A Better Deal for Renters \(A performance report on the progress of A better Deal for Renters\) – August 2024](#)
- [Progress on A better Deal for Renters \(updated report card\) – April 2025](#)

Communicating with members and stakeholders

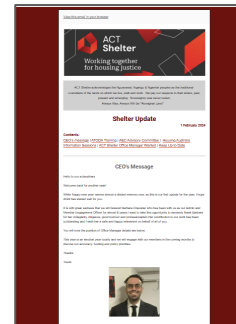


We communicated regularly with members and stakeholders throughout the year through our [e-newsletter \(Housing Matters\)](#), daily [Facebook](#) posts and [Twitter/X messages](#). We also continued to develop and maintain our website as a resource for our members and stakeholders.

ACT Shelter Annual Report 2024/2025

Email Updates:

- 23/7/2024 – [ACT Shelter Update](#)
- 1/10/2024 – [ACT Shelter Update](#)
- 18/12/2024 – [ACT Shelter Update](#)
- 12/5/2025 – [ACT Shelter Update](#)



Renting and Housing Network ACT



In March 2025, ACT Shelter launched an [online forum](#) for community workers in the ACT. The forum aims to be a space where workers can share experiences, exchange news, ask questions, and raise issues to support one another. It also provides ACT Shelter with a platform to share updates, resources, and information on housing-related issues and events.



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present ACT Shelter's audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2025.

ACT Shelter reported a deficit of **\$167,727** for the 2024–25 financial year. This outcome reflects the significant reduction in ACT Government funding following the cessation of the systemic advocacy grant. With this grant ending – and no restoration of funding from government – ACT Shelter's income was effectively halved, creating a substantial challenge to the organisation's financial sustainability.

Despite the deficit, ACT Shelter was able to maintain operations throughout the year by drawing on its reserve funds. Employee costs remained the organisation's largest expenditure, although these were moderated by a five-month period without a permanent CEO and by prolonged staff leave. As at 30 June 2025, ACT Shelter held net assets of \$170,270.

Given current funding levels, ACT Shelter's income is insufficient to sustain operations through to June 2026. In response, the organisation has had to make difficult but necessary decisions, including reducing an already modest staffing capacity and cutting costs wherever possible. Significant work has also been undertaken to strengthen internal financial systems and processes, ensuring clarity, accountability, and improved financial oversight.

Securing ACT Shelter's long-term viability remains a pressing concern. The organisation is actively seeking additional government funding, which will be essential if it is to continue fulfilling its role as the independent peak body for housing justice in the ACT. ACT Shelter is also exploring alternative revenue streams to support its ongoing work.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the ACT Shelter staff, Executive Committee, and our members throughout a challenging year. In particular, I would like to thank the CEO, Corinne Dobson, for her work in strengthening the organisation's financial system and processes, and for facilitating the financial audit. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Amanda Sang, our bookkeeper, who has worked with the CEO to support improvements to our financial processes and systems. The challenge now is to build on this work and secure adequate core funding so ACT Shelter can continue to play its vital role in advocating for a fair, inclusive, and sustainable housing system for all Canberrans.

Prabhjot Singh – Treasurer

Find the full financial statements for 2024–25 on the [ACT Shelter website](#).

Financial Statements

ACT Shelter Association,

ABN 13 348 226 983

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue	203,806	384,585
Employee benefits expense	(273,393)	(278,568)
PPE - Depreciation	(3,431)	(2,767)
Accounting fees	(3,486)	(2,532)
Audit fees	(4,000)	(3,200)
Computer expenses	(2,741)	(5,934)
Conference/Seminar costs	(896)	(3,663)
Consulting and professional fees	(33,191)	(42,472)
Insurance	(6,862)	(5,934)
Project expense	-	2,727
Rent	(13,659)	(13,261)
Subscriptions	-	(7,103)
Other operating expenses	(6,438)	(7,987)
Prior year grants expense	(23,436)	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(167,727)	13,891

Statement of Financial Position, as at 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	202,713	323,525
Trade and other receivables	7,143	9,827
Other assets	7,184	10,469
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	217,040	343,821
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	5,147	8,578
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	5,147	8,578
TOTAL ASSETS	222,187	352,399
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	24,696	18,921
Employee benefits	27,221	18,572
Grants in advance	-	(23,091)
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	51,917	14,402
TOTAL LIABILITIES	51,917	14,402
NET ASSETS	170,270	337,997
EQUITY	170,270	337,997
Retained earnings	170,270	337,997
TOTAL EQUITY	170,270	337,997

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	337,997	337,997
Surplus/(Deficits) for the current year	<u>(167,727)</u>	<u>(167,727)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2025	<u>170,270</u>	<u>170,270</u>

2024

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	324,106	324,106
Surplus/(Deficits) for the current year	<u>13,891</u>	<u>13,891</u>
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>337,997</u>	<u>337,997</u>

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from government and others	197,660	355,887
Payments to suppliers and employees	(327,302)	(374,585)
Interest received	8,830	17,700
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(120,812)</u>	<u>(998)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(3,791)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,791)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(120,812)	(4,789)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>323,525</u>	<u>328,314</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>6 202,713</u>	<u>323,525</u>



ACT
Shelter