

MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Bresnan MLA, Housing Spokesperson, ACT Greens

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Greens motion for Safe Shelter proposal successful

ACT Greens Housing spokesperson, Amanda Bresnan MLA, has gained Government agreement to facilitate the Safe Shelter proposal for rough sleepers through a motion passed by the Legislative Assembly overnight.

“Local churches have come together wanting to provide comfort and shelter to rough sleepers, and the Government must find a way to support them and have the proposal proceed,” Ms Bresnan said.

“Churches and other non-government groups have an important role to play in providing homelessness services, including accommodation. Instead of putting barriers in the way of a proposal like Safe Shelter, Government should be encouraging them.

“The Government had concerns that the church halls needed to have adequate safety infrastructure in case of an emergency. Having visited one of the church halls, it appears the appropriate infrastructure is in place. It is time that the Government met with Safe Shelter to address any outstanding issues and get this service running as soon as possible.

“I moved the motion in the Assembly last night asking MLAs to recognise the wonderful work of the churches behind Safe Shelter, and called on the Government to facilitate the proposal. I am very pleased the motion received tri-partisan support.

“I hope now to see the ACT Government working constructively with the churches to progress the Safe Shelter proposal.

“Having a shelter isn’t admitting defeat to homelessness. It is just a part of the types of services the community can provide to help people who are homeless and sleeping rough, and provide them with a safe, comfortable and warm place to sleep,” said Ms Bresnan.

Ms Bresnan’s successful motion:

That this Assembly:

- (1) is concerned for people who are homeless and sleeping rough in Canberra;
- (2) acknowledges the initiative and efforts shown by Safe Shelter and local churches to provide overnight shelter for people who are homeless and sleep rough; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to work with Safe Shelter and the churches to facilitate the proposal proceeding.