



# GNCA

Griffith/Narrabundah  
Community Association

[www.gnca.org.au](http://www.gnca.org.au)

Ms Yvette Berry, MLA  
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development  
[berry@act.gov.au](mailto:berry@act.gov.au)

cc Mr Mick Gentleman MLA  
Minister for Planning and Land Management  
[gentleman@act.gov.au](mailto:gentleman@act.gov.au)  
Mr Andrew Barr MLA [barr@act.gov.au](mailto:barr@act.gov.au)  
Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA [rattenbury@act.gov.au](mailto:rattenbury@act.gov.au)  
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA [stephen-smith@act.gov.au](mailto:stephen-smith@act.gov.au)  
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA [vassarotti@act.gov.au](mailto:vassarotti@act.gov.au)  
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA [lee@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:lee@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Minister Berry

## Development of Public Housing in Canberra's Inner South

The Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) was formed in 2000 to “protect and promote the amenity and interests of the Griffith and Narrabundah communities”. We have over 400 members and many more supporters in the area the GNCA represents.

In the past several months we have been contacted by many of our members and supporters concerned about what Housing ACT (HACT) might be planning for community housing in their neighbourhood. Consequently, we wrote to HACT on 15 December 2021 (see attachment 1), seeking an opportunity to have a conversation about the government's overall plans and strategies for public housing in Inner South Canberra generally, and more specifically in Griffith and Narrabundah within the Association's area of responsibility.

HACT rejected this initial approach (see attachment 2) on the grounds that it would be inadvisable to meet with the GNCA when an ACAT appeal by the GNCA against a DA approval granted to HACT was still to be heard. In the event, HACT decided to surrender the approval, on 12 January 2022, just five days prior to the initial ACAT hearing, without any explanation.

As the reasons outlined in the letter by Catherine Loft not to have a conversation, were no longer operative, we wrote again the HACT by email on 21 January 2022 seeking a meeting (see attachment 3). This was again rebuffed by HACT in the letter of 7 February 2022 (see attachment 4), which advised that HACT strongly respects the privacy of tenants. It would appear that HACT's concern for its clients' privacy precludes any possibility of a discussion of general plans and policies, let alone any information about HACT's property portfolio, and how it is managed on the public's behalf.

[info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)  
[www.gnca.org.au](http://www.gnca.org.au)

Facebook: TheGNCA/  
PO Box 4127 MANUKA ACT 2603

ABN 26503486416



The GNCA feels that this position is unreasonable. We have no desire to intrude into the privacy of HACT's tenants, nor do we wish to learn the identities of HACT tenants. We cannot see how a discussion about HACT's plans for its many properties in the Griffith Narrabundah area, could compromise the tenants' privacy.

As the Directorate's primary purpose, "is to empower people to meet their full potential and enable the development of inclusive and strong communities"; it is difficult to understand how this can be achieved if there are not appropriate interactions or engagement with the local communities hosting HACT's tenants.

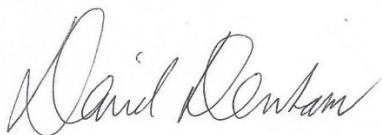
All we ask is to be informed on what your plans are for our region, and what options might be available in the Canberra Inner South District. Obviously, HACT would be under no obligation to follow our suggestions, but it might provide an opportunity to reduce the community concerns about the proposed redevelopment of HACT sites and widen community support for HACT's public housing goals.

Let me take this opportunity to again reiterate that the GNCA is not opposed to public housing and welcomes efforts by HACT to enable older public tenants to continue to age in the communities in which they have lived for many years (so-called "aging in place").

You will appreciate that this issue has been ongoing for over three months. meeting. If HACT remains firm in its disinclination to meet with us, we ask that we be able to meet with you and your staff to discuss these matters.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Dr David Denham AM  
President, GNCA  
8 March 2022



[info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)  
[www.gnca.org.au](http://www.gnca.org.au)

Facebook: TheGNCA/  
PO Box 4127 MANUKA ACT 2603

ABN 26503486416