

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Remote Housing and Town Camps:

#### **New Housing Stock**

- 1. Please explain why the four new houses constructed at Santa Teresa are raised and have no provision for elderly and mobility-impaired access.**

All new homes are designed to achieve Silver level standards of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines and requirements of AS4299 Adaptable Housing Standard, Class C, which focuses on the key structural and spatial elements that are critical to ensure future flexibility and adaptability of the home. This includes larger door openings to at least one bathroom and one bedroom, adequate corridor widths, access around the kitchen and provision for hand and grab rails to be fitted at a later time. Specific requirements for disabilities vary according to the requirements of the tenant, as determined by an occupational therapist report.

With agreement from the community, the four new homes in Santa Teresa are to be used as transitional accommodation while the build programs are underway, and depending on who the dwellings are ultimately allocated to, the homes can be adapted for elderly and mobility access with the inclusion of a ramp or other minor modifications, as required.

- 2. Please provide reasons why this was not a design consideration prior to building and delivery.**

The Housing Reference Group in Santa Teresa was consulted on the new housing and provided input into the design of the new homes. At that time, no additional modifications were identified for these four, three bedroom homes.

- 3. Will the houses be retrofitted with disabled access?**

Modifications will not be made to the four, three-bedroom homes already installed in Santa Teresa at this time. The homes may be modified for disabled access at a later date, depending on the individual needs of the tenants when the home becomes available for allocation.

- 4. If the houses will be retrofitted, what is the cost?**

The cost to retrofit an access ramp will depend on the gradient of the lot and whether one or two landings within the ramp are required.