

Government the problem Minister

Minister Berry has complained about public housing projects being delayed due to "frivolous or vexatious claims".

What Minister Berry should realise is that if anyone is frivolous or vexatious it is the ACT government, which is approving substandard development applications that treat public housing tenants as second-class citizens.

The YWCA proposal she recently referred to is a good example.

The Administrative Appeal Tribunal found the application failed to properly apply the Australian Standard for adaptable housing, lacked proper private open spaces for the dwellings, failed to provide enough sunlight, or enough car parking spaces, and failed to have adequate front boundaries for the desired character of the area and amenity of neighbours.

Three of the units won't receive any sun between noon and 3pm during the winter solstice.

Australian Standards and the Territory Plan have rules that have been developed so that residents can enjoy an appropriate standard of living.

They are neither frivolous nor vexatious and the government's responsibility is to ensure that buildings comply with the rules and the standards.

David Denham, president, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association