



**The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP**  
Minister for Family and Community Services

MFACS14/894

Mr David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

I am replying on behalf of the NSW Government to your letter of 8 September 2014 to the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, regarding the Select Committee's report on Social, Public and Affordable Housing.

I thank the Select Committee for its work and note its recommendations. I also note the Government's response to the Select Committee's report is due on 9 March 2015. As this falls into the caretaker period, which commences on 6 March 2015, a detailed response to the Select Committee's recommendations will be deferred for consideration by the incoming Government.

As you may be aware the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) has released *Social Housing in NSW; a discussion paper for input and comment*, about the future of social housing in NSW. Public consultation to the Discussion Paper has recently concluded with FACS receiving more than 600 submissions.

There are considerable similarities between the issues raised in the Discussion Paper and the issues raised in the Select Committee's report. The current process of public consultation is designed to elicit public feedback, which will inform a Government response to the Discussion Paper in July 2015.

I note many of the Select Committee's recommendations relate to other policy areas, including Planning and Fair Trading. These portfolios are obviously interconnected with social housing and FACS will ensure the incoming Government is fully apprised of the issues raised in the Select Committee's report. With advice from FACS and other departments the incoming government will be in a position to respond in detail to the Select Committee's recommendations.

If you have any further questions, please contact Georgina Harrisson, FACS' Deputy Secretary, Strategic Reform and Policy on 9248 1805 or by email at [georgina.harrisson@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:georgina.harrisson@facs.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

  
Gabrielle Upton MP  
Minister for Family and Community Services