<reference no>

Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Minister for Mental Health

Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street

MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Minister

**2016-17 Ministerial Statements of Expectations: Supported Residential Services and Accommodation Support Unit and Standards and Regulation Unit**

Thank you for your Ministerial Statement of Expectations letters for the Supported Residential Services and Accommodation Support Unit and Standards and Regulation Unit, for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. I am pleased to provide you with the attached department action plans in response. They outline actions the department will undertake to give effect to your expectations.

Your Ministerial Statement for the Standards and Regulation Unit highlights the importance of broader organisational design and regulatory reform work that is being carried out across the department. This work is significant in driving ongoing departmental changes required during the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and beyond.

In this context, I have established an organisational design team within the department to provide advice on the department's future operating model and structure to help us realise our vision of improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. I have also tasked the department’s Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management Division to develop a strengthened regulatory governance framework across the department’s regulators with the aim of improving regulatory oversight and coordination.

The Standards and Regulation Unit’s action plan includes a commitment that the unit’s regulatory policy will clearly articulate when it is appropriate to use regulatory action, or when it is appropriate to use departmental funding or stewardship measures.

As your Ministerial Statement for the Supported Residential Services and Accommodation Support Unit notes, the supported residential services legislative framework has acted as a forerunner in the area of contemporary risk based regulation. The department intends to review the effectiveness of this legislation, which has now been in place for four years. Therefore key actions for the unit outlined in the attached action plan include conducting an evaluation of the legislative framework, which commenced in July 2016. The evaluation will focus on the effectiveness of residents’ accommodation standards, security of tenure, provisions relating to residents’ money and whether the legislative framework has reduced regulatory burden for proprietors.

Your Ministerial Statements and the department’s action plans will form part of the work plans of the Supported Residential Services and Accommodation Support Unit and the Standards and Regulation Unit and will also be published on the department’s website. The department’s progress in undertaking the actions outlined in the action plans will be publically reported on shortly after the conclusion of the 2016-17 financial year.

I look forward to working with you to continue to further improve the performance of the department’s regulators.

Yours sincerely

**Kym Peake**

Secretary

Encl. (2)

2016-17 Ministerial Statement of Expectations: Supported Residential Services and Accommodation Support Unit’s action plan

2016-17 Ministerial Statement of Expectations: Standards and Regulation Unit’s action plan