

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 124

Topic: Housing Affordability Strategy for Older Australians

Hansard Page: 16/02/2012 - CA42

Senator Ludlam asked:

Are there plans for a Housing Affordability Strategy for Older Australians?

Answer:

The Government takes a strong ongoing interest in housing affordability for all Australians, including older Australians. A number of programs directly assist in improving housing affordability for older Australians. These include the Social Housing Initiative (SHI), the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing (NPASH), Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA), and the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS).

As at 30 November 2011, of the 14,590 dwellings tenanted SHI dwellings, over 5,800 (40%) have been tenanted by older people (aged over 55 years).

As at 31 December 2011, of the 1,645 NPASH dwellings tenanted, over 540 (33%) had been tenanted by older people (aged over 55 years).

As at January 2012, of the 7,543 NRAS occupants, 592 are mature age Australians (65 years and over).

Of the 1,625,358 income units (singles and couples) receiving the Age Pension in December 2011, 205,699 (12.7%) were receiving CRA.

Additionally, since September 2009, through the Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms, the Government has made pension rates more responsive to pensioners' actual living cost increases and delivered significant pension increases. The maximum pension has increased by around \$154 a fortnight for single people and \$156 a fortnight for couples combined.