

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness Question No: SQ15-000026

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance

Hansard page: CA77 - 26 February 2015

Senator McLucas asked:

Further to the answer provided to Question No.54 from 2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings, please provide detail of the more nuanced calculation of the costs of providing Commonwealth Rent Assistance to public housing?

Answer:

The advice provided in response to Question No. 54 was that the estimated cost to the Commonwealth of applying Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) to public housing tenants would be around \$1.2 billion. This was based on 333,884 public housing dwellings^(a) and assumed CRA would be paid at \$3,482 per dwelling per annum.

The estimated amount of \$3,482 in CRA is the weighted average of maximum rates of CRA applicable as at 30 June 2014. Maximum rates of CRA vary by family structure, and the weighted average is based on the population profile of income support and Family Tax Benefit recipients recorded as paying 'government rent'; that is, singles, couples, sharers and families with children.

Notes:

- (a) *Report on Government Services, 2014*, Productivity Commission; includes State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing dwellings, which are not currently eligible for CRA.