

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness

Question No: SQ17-000362

Topic: Housing

Hansard page: 18

Senator Doug Cameron asked:

How much is the increase in rent assistance? From the interesting things that the New South Wales government has been doing, how much has that added to Commonwealth costs?

Answer:

The average fortnightly Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) payment to an income unit (who rents in the private rental market or community housing) in New South Wales was about \$115 in June 2016. For indicative purpose, CRA payment would be increased by around \$115 every fortnight per unit of public housing transferred to community housing stock. Based on data of the latest Report on Government Services 2017, at 30 June 2016, there were 72,410 households living in community housing in New South Wales. This suggests an estimated annual costing of around \$217 million per year in CRA on community housing in New South Wales. This represents approximately 5 per cent of annual total CRA expenditure.