

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Budget supplementary estimates; October 2008

Answers to questions on notice from Defence Housing Australia

**SENATE ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 1**

**Senator Boswell** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, upon notice, on 21 October 2008:

What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio?

What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?

Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

**Senator Faulkner** – The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) Defence Housing Australia has not costed the Government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Advice on the applicability of the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* to Defence Housing Australia is inconclusive. Nonetheless, there are likely to be a range of indirect and direct impacts on the Australian construction industry including increasing the costs of construction. These impacts have not been identified and costed by Defence Housing Australia or the wider residential housing sector at this time. However, it is likely that the purchasing of supplies and materials, and the increases in energy prices will make the cost of construction more expensive. No costs have been included in forward estimates.

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
 Budget supplementary estimates; October 2008  
 Answers to questions on notice from Defence Housing Australia

**SENATE QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 2**

**Senator Johnston** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, upon notice, on 22 October 2008.

Do you have figures that indicate the current rate of growth over the past five years of rent assistance?

**Senator Faulkner** – The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
<b>Singles (MWOD)</b>	\$54,979,590	\$65,598,695	\$68,892,088	\$78,638,909	\$90,191,932
<b>Marrieds (MWD)</b>	\$25,619,462	\$26,753,804	\$24,628,885	\$28,898,327	\$32,821,719
<b>TOTAL RA</b>	<b>\$80,599,052</b>	<b>\$92,352,498</b>	<b>\$93,520,973</b>	<b>\$107,537,236</b>	<b>\$123,013,650</b>

Notes:

1. The figures are drawn from the Department of Defence ROMAN accounting system and reflect the total cost of payments for rent assistance in both categories.
2. The significant growth in the cost of rent assistance for MWOD is due to a change in Defence policy making access to rent assistance for singles much easier.
3. The growth in the amount of rent assistance paid to MWD over the period is 7.5% per year based on the average cost per member in 2003-04 (\$9,617) compared to the average cost per member in 2007-08 (\$12,513). The actual amount of rent assistance paid to any one member is determined by rank and location.

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
Budget supplementary estimates; October 2008  
Answers to questions on notice from Defence Housing Australia

**SENATE QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 3**

**Senator Johnston** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, upon notice, on 22 October 2008.

Of those 2,000 anticipated make-up units that you are going to be required to find, can you give me analysis – not necessarily now, although you might be able to – state by state?

**Senator Faulkner** – The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

The additional 1900 units (approx) of housing stock required by DHA is in response to Defences increased housing requirements and to achieve a Defence target of 15% Rental Assistance.

<b>State</b>	<b>Additional Stock Required</b>
Australian Capital Territory	67
Northern Territory	103
Victoria	134
South Australia	167
Western Australia	172
Queensland	544
New South Wales	713
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,900</b>

Notes:

1. The forecast requirements are based on the Defence Housing Forecast received in August 2008 and the DHA Corporate Plan May 2008.
2. Consideration has been given to areas impacted by the Enhanced Land Force initiative.
3. DHA is actively pursuing measures to reduce the size of the anticipated make-up component