

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

## SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Commonwealth Rental Assistance

**Question reference number:** HS32

**Senator:** Ludlam

**Type of question:** *Written*

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 December 2009

**Number of pages:** 1

#### Question:

During the last estimates hearings on Commonwealth Rent Assistance I was told that there is someone looking at the geographical breakdown of rent assistance recipients and those sorts of figures across different geographical areas. Is that information able to be described or tabled?

#### Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs has policy responsibility for Rent Assistance.

While the Human Services Portfolio has not been specifically analysing the geographic breakdown of rent assistance recipients, it does hold administrative data on the number of customers receiving Rent Assistance for nearly 8,500 suburbs / localities across Australia.

The table below, relating to the September 2009 quarter, shows the information held at the State level.

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Number of people receiving Rent Assistance	392,613	251,534	282,125	82,907	93,463	29,339	5,821	8,355	1,147,917
Rent Assistance Quarterly Outlays	\$253,971,369	\$159,839,877	\$186,324,423	\$50,974,321	\$59,886,012	\$18,450,521	\$3,938,213	\$5,248,938	\$740,023,645