

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0454) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

Provide by state (and postcode if available) the average rents currently being paid for Short and Long term accommodation? What is the average per state? What is the highest rent paid in each state and the lowest rent paid in each state? Are the rates paid the same rates paid as those paid for people in community detention? ie Market rates of different?

Answer:

Short-term accommodation options for Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) clients are sourced by service providers on behalf of the department, and are paid by service providers accordingly. Service providers are in turn paid through the contract mechanism on a standard fee for service basis. Therefore, the data relating to rent paid by clients is kept by service providers and is not available.

HSS clients in long-term accommodation are responsible for paying their own rent. For this reason, data is also not available.

In relation to community detention (CD), a number of contracted service providers, including the Australian Red Cross, are responsible for the sourcing and leasing of suitable accommodation for use by family groups, unaccompanied minors and adult clients.

The average cost of rent per week for leasing properties across Australia is listed in the table below. This is 'point in time' data and changes frequently. For comparison, the table also includes data published by the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) for the average weekly market rent in the major capital cities of Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne. This data is available at:

http://blog.realestateview.com.au/2011/11/australian-renters-still-feeling-the-squeeze/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ExpertView+%28Expert+View%29

Average Rental Cost for CD Properties *

State	CD average per week	REIA published average
QLD	\$383	\$350 (Brisbane)
NSW	\$416	\$400 (Sydney)
ACT	\$458	\$450
VIC	\$343	\$350 (Melbourne)
TAS	\$272	\$360
SA	\$341	\$320 (Adelaide)
WA	\$358	\$390 (Perth)

* Average rental cost for CD properties is dependant on a range of factors including the number of leased properties, number and permutation of client groupings, and market rate.