

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0750) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Michaelia Cash (L&CA 124) asked:

In relation to the review of accommodation arrangements for clients, provide the total number of properties that will need to be looked at across Australia broken down by state.

Answer:

Service providers use different service models to deliver housing services to HSS clients. Some providers will use group housing to provide short term accommodation before assisting clients to find long term accommodation. Some providers place clients directly into long term accommodation to assist their transition into the Australian community.

The number of properties needing to be inspected across Australia therefore varies from state to state depending on the model of delivering accommodation service.

Based on its experience in Newcastle the approach the Department is taking is to inspect all the short term accommodation properties as they are normally directly leased by the service providers. As long term accommodation properties are normally directly leased by humanitarian entrants, who are involved in the selection of the property, some 10 per cent of these properties will be inspected. These properties will include those selected randomly as well as those that are brought to the Department's attention by clients or community agencies

The exact number of houses to be inspected is being finalised.

Our current estimate by state is as follows:

	Short-Term	Long-Term	Total Visits
NSW	127	54	181
VIC	23	72	95
QLD	57	84	141
ACT	0	11	11
WA	15	22	37
SA	17	7	24
NT	17	7	24
TAS	26	1	27
TOTAL	282	258	540