

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness

Question No: SQ17-000017

Topic: Housing and Homelessness

Hansard page: 61

Senator Lee Rhiannon asked:

What can local governments do in terms of housing programs in their area? Could you provide how - at your level, the federal government - interacts and can interact with local government in assisting them?

Answer:

The Commonwealth Government provides around \$1.3 billion each year to states and territories through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) to improve housing affordability and homelessness outcomes.

State and territory governments are responsible for determining how these funds are spent, which services are funded and the location of these services. Some of these funds may be provided to local governments, however the states and territories are not required to report details to the Commonwealth about how and where these funds are spent.

The Commonwealth previously provided funding to local governments to build infrastructure and improve development assessment and planning processes to increase the supply and reduce the cost of new affordable housing, through the former Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) and the Building Better Regional Cities (BBRC) programs.

DSS notes the Commonwealth, via the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development also provides financial assistance grants to local government under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. Further information about this support is available at <http://regional.gov.au/local/assistance/index.aspx>.