

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 263

**Topic:** Voluntary Leases in the NT

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

The compulsory leases expire on 17 August 2012. Will the Commonwealth take out further compulsory leases on those communities which are not signed up to voluntary leases by that time? If not, what interim arrangements are being made? What arrangements has the Commonwealth made to ensure that tenancy management (repairs and maintenance, rent collection, payment of water, sewage, rates) continues in those communities where there is no voluntary lease?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government has committed not to compulsorily extend or replace five year leases but to negotiate voluntary lease arrangements as soon as possible.

Lease consultations and negotiations are progressing well to secure voluntary leases over social housing and Commonwealth assets.

If traditional owners have not made a decision by 18 August 2012, the NT Government and the Land Councils have agreed that the NT Government will continue to administer social housing and provide property and tenancy management while leases are being considered.