

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 233

Topic: Accessibility of domestic violence shelters

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

How many shelters are there across Australia?
How many of these shelters are accessible for people with a disability?

Answer:

In 2008-09 (the latest available figures), there were 1,532 Specialist Homelessness Services (former Supported Accommodation Assistance Program or SAAP) agencies across Australia. Of these, there were 351 agencies specifically targeting women escaping domestic violence, which constituted nearly 23 per cent of all Specialist Homelessness Services agencies. In addition, there were 43 agencies targeting single women and a further 386 agencies that were described as cross-target/multiple/general. (Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report 2009-09*, April 2010)

Responsibility for the management of the services rests within states and territories. The available statistics do not differentiate between support provided to women with or without a disability. States and Territories may have specific information on agencies providing services to people with a disability in their respective areas. The new Specialist Homelessness Services data collection, to be implemented from July 2011, will collect information on whether clients of Specialist Homelessness Services report having a disability.