

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 291

**Topic:** Homelands - Housing

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

In 2007 the Federal Government signed an MOU with the Northern Territory Government handing over responsibility for municipal and local government services for 500 homelands in the Northern Territory. As the MOU is expected to expire by September 2012, what plans has the Federal Government made to renegotiate or extend the MOU?

**Answer:**

In 2007, the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding on Indigenous housing, accommodation and related services, under which the Northern Territory Government agreed to take on full responsibility for municipal and essential services in outstations and homelands, with a Commonwealth contribution of \$60m over three years.

This arrangement was superseded in May 2009, with a further Commonwealth commitment of \$20m, bringing the total to \$80m over four years, granted on the provision that the Northern Territory Government maintain this responsibility until 30 June 2012.

Future supplementary support for municipal and essential service delivery to small discrete communities in the Northern Territory is a matter for Government consideration.