

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: 312

Topic: Office of Township Leasing

Hansard Page: 17/02/2012 - CA31

Senator Scullion asked:

What is the extent of the cost to the Aboriginals Benefit Account for the Office of Township Leasing to manage the township leases in Alice Springs?

Answer:

In December 2009 the Executive Director of Township Leasing (on behalf of the Commonwealth) entered into 40 year subleases with the relevant housing association of each of seventeen Alice Springs Living Areas (town camps).

Section 64(4A) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) provides that the Minister may direct amounts be debited from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) in relation to administering leases held by the Executive Director of Township Leasing.

The total operational expenditure for administering the town camp leases in Alice Springs to date is \$19,172. Because the leases of the town camps are not a township lease under section 19A of the ALRA, there was no upfront payment drawn from the ABA for leases.

It is anticipated that the cost of completing cadastral surveys for the seventeen Alice Springs Living Areas will be a further \$290,262.