

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: 2

Question No: 122

Topic: Housing for the Aged

Hansard Page: 16/02/2012 - CA41

Senator Ludlam asked:

Can you provide any detail on the decline in Independent Living Units?

Answer:

Independent Living Units (ILUs) are a specific form of rental accommodation for low income, low asset older people, that were constructed with Commonwealth subsidies between 1954 and 1986, appropriated under the now ceased *Aged Persons Home Act 1954* (Cth).

It is estimated that around 32,500 dwellings were built under the *Aged Persons Home Act 1954* over this period of time. In 1986, Commonwealth funding for this program ceased. FaHCSIA therefore does not have detailed information on the current status of all the ILUs built under the *Aged Persons Home Act 1954* (APHA).

More recently, Independent Living Units have been overtaken by other policies and forms of accommodation such as the Australian Government's ageing in community policy, significant Commonwealth investment in social and affordable housing, state and territory policies aimed at housing older people, and increasing numbers of retirement village dwellings.