

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: 125

Topic: Housing Affordability

Hansard Page: 16/02/2012 - CA42

Senator Ludlam asked:

Will private rental affordability or reform of the current rental market be a significant focus of the new Minister?

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed under the National Affordable Housing Agreement with state and territory governments to the objective that all Australians have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing that contributes to social and economic participation.

The private rental sector is a significant part of the housing market, accommodating around two million households, meaning that private rental affordability is important to achieving housing affordability more generally.

The Australian Government has a number of major programs targeted at improving rental affordability, including Commonwealth Rent Assistance (which targets financial assistance directly to renters) and the National Rental Affordability Scheme (which increases the supply of affordable housing stock).