

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness Question No: SQ15-000032

Topic: Homelessness

Hansard page: 81

Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:

Is it government policy to reduce the number of turnaways from crisis centres and homeless shelters; and if so, by how much are you hoping to reduce the turnaway rate?

Answer:

Homelessness is a complex issue that affects many Australians. It requires a long-term and systematic effort across agencies, sectors and the community. While state and territory governments are responsible for service delivery, the Commonwealth is working with states and territories to see fewer Australians become homeless and to ensure there are effective homelessness services.

The Australian Government is supporting state and territory governments in their role of providing services to the homeless, or those at risk of homelessness by providing financial assistance through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

On 23 March 2015, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Social Services, announced that the Australian Government will commit up to \$230 million over two years from 1 July 2015 to renew the NPAH.

Decisions about longer-term funding arrangements, housing and homelessness policy, and the respective roles of Commonwealth, state and territory governments will be considered in the context of the White Paper on the Reform of Federation process.