

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 2

**Question No:** 261

**Topic:** Supporting Senior Australians - Housing Help for Seniors - pilot

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Payne** asked:

One of the conditions of the scheme is that the family home must have been owned for at least 25 years. Why was this timeframe selected as a condition of the scheme, and what research or evidence base was used to support limiting the scheme in this way? In deciding on the 25-year requirement, did the department consider research paid for by the Federal Government and conducted by the Australian Housing Urban Research Institute, which identified that 40 per cent of Australians move every five years?

**Answer:**

This is to help ensure the measure meets its objectives and is not manipulated to unfairly use the scheme to gain access to a higher rate of pension. The measure seeks to address a concern raised through the Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing that people have not downsized their home because of concerns about their pension.

A large number of seniors have 25 years tenure or more in their home. There are more than 670,000 pensioners of Age Pension age who have 25 years tenure in their home; that is, around 40 per cent of pensioners of Age Pension age.