

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: CRS Australia – property ownership

Question reference number: HS 11

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard page 93

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 December 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

a) **Senator FIFIELD:** So CRS does not own any sites.

Ms Fletcher: Not that we operate out of.

Senator FIFIELD: What sites that you do not operate out of do you own?

Ms Fletcher: CRS Australia owns one property in Townsville. It is a commercial property.

Senator FIFIELD: Is that an investment property?

Ms Fletcher: It is a property that CRS Australia formerly operated out of but has since moved to another location that is far more suitable for access by job seekers and employers.

Senator FIFIELD: What is the history of their being just one? Did CRS once own a number of properties and has been disposing of them over time, with this as a legacy property?

Ms Fletcher: I would have to take that on notice—in terms of the history—but over the life of CRS Australia and its predecessors, they have owned property that has been disposed of over time.

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b) **Senator FIFIELD:** Do you have any idea what the Townsville site is worth?

Ms Fletcher: I do not know its value. I would have to take that on notice.

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c) **Senator FIFIELD:** Also, could you take on notice the matter of what CRS is getting from the tenants.

Answer:

a) Prior to 1996 it was government policy to acquire and own property where economically feasible and practical, rather than lease. Consistent with this policy, CRS Australia owned and operated centre based properties, including the property at Townsville.

Consistent with government policy released in 1996, CRS Australia divested itself of its service delivery properties, except for its property in Townsville.

- b) Based on a recent Australian Valuation Office valuation of the property in 2011, the current valuation of the Townsville property is \$1.5 million.
- c) The Townsville property is fully occupied and leased with four tenants. As at 31 October 2011, the gross rental per annum for the Townsville property was \$273,261.