

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 509

Topic: Leases in Indigenous Communities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Please provide numbers, both by communities and population, on how many Indigenous Australians in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory have access to the land tenure necessary for private property rights.

Answer:

Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory are on different forms of land tenure arrangements. One form is land granted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Land Rights Act). On land subject to the Land Rights Act, the relevant Land Trust may grant a lease, licence or other interest in land. A list of Land Rights Act communities can be viewed at www.fahcsia.gov.au.

Community living areas are another form of Indigenous held land in the Northern Territory which are established under Northern Territory legislation. A community living area is generally a small portion of land excised from a pastoral lease and granted as conditional freehold to an Aboriginal community or family for residential purposes. Under the current Northern Territory legislation, owners of community living areas may grant a lease greater than 12 months, with the consent of the relevant Northern Territory Minister, where the purpose of the lease is to provide health, education or housing services. A list of community living areas can be viewed at www.fahcsia.gov.au.

Aboriginal organisations also own town camp areas in the Northern Territory in the form of leases in perpetuity granted under the Northern Territory's *Special Purposes Leases Act* or the *Crown Lands Act*. This Northern Territory legislation contains restrictions and procedural barriers that inhibit long term leasing. A list of town camps can be viewed at www.fahcsia.gov.au.

The information on the population living on land under each tenure type is unavailable.