

**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:** 2

**Question No:** 499

**Topic:** Rent Deduction Scheme

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Payne** asked:

Can you please provide an update on the public housing rent deduction scheme; is this still with the Commonwealth, or has progress been made with the states and territories? What is the timeframe for finalisation and implementation of this reform?

**Answer:**

At the 31 August 2012 meeting of the Select Council on Housing and Homelessness, ACT, NSW, QLD, and WA Ministers agreed to work with the Commonwealth to trial the Housing Payment Deduction Scheme (HPDS).

FaHCSIA is working with States and Territories and the Commonwealth Department of Human Services (DHS) on the design of the Scheme.

It will require changes to Commonwealth legislation and DHS needs to build a system to deliver the HPDS.

Timelines for the implementation of the trial are a matter for negotiation.