

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

Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 494

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

For each of the last 15 years, what how many and what proportion of Newstart Allowance recipients have been paying in excess of 30 per cent of 50 per cent of their income in rent?

Answer:

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) income units¹ receiving Newstart Allowance as a primary payment², at reference fortnight in June 2001 to 2014³

<i>As at fortnight ending June</i>	<i>Number of income units</i>	<i>Rental stress⁴</i>		<i>Severe rental stress⁵</i>	
		<i>With CRA</i>	<i>Without CRA</i>	<i>With CRA</i>	<i>Without CRA</i>
2001	218,551	47.5	84.3	14.9	43.2
2002	197,432	47.0	85.6	15.5	44.3
2003	185,713	49.8	86.3	15.7	45.4
2004	176,386	50.0	85.6	16.9	47.0
2005	165,129	52.7	86.2	18.1	48.3
2006	156,394	53.6	86.0	18.4	46.1
2007	150,552	53.4	84.5	18.5	45.1
2008	139,567	54.0	85.6	20.9	48.7
2009	191,387	59.1	87.3	24.3	52.8
2010	208,500	61.9	88.7	26.4	55.0
2011	197,065	61.9	88.3	26.8	54.5
2012	206,211	62.4	88.7	26.2	54.0
2013	258,034	60.2	86.3	24.7	49.8
2014	274,613	59.4	86.1	24.8	49.6

Source: Department of Social Services Housing Data Set

(see notes over page)

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Notes:

¹ An income unit comprises a single person (with or without dependent children) or a couple (with or without dependent children). Single social security recipients living together in the same household are regarded as separate income units.

² One member of a couple is treated as the reference person for the income unit, based on the type of payment they receive. The general order of priority is: Pensions; Allowances; and Family Tax Benefit (FTB). Parenting Payment (Partnered) will be reported for income units where one member receives Parenting Payment and their partner is not receiving any other income support payment. They will only be reported as receiving FTB Part A if neither receives a social security payment.

³ Data prior to 2001 is not consistent with the DSS Housing Data Set.

⁴ The proportion of income units paying over 30 per cent of income in rent. A small number of income units are excluded from housing stress calculations.

⁵ The proportion of income units paying over 50 per cent of income in rent. A small number of income units are excluded from housing stress calculations.