

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

Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 496

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

For each of the last 15 years, how many and what proportion of Single/coupled Age Pension recipients have been paying in excess of 30 per cent and 50 per cent of their income in rent?

Answer:

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

<i>As at fortnight ending June</i>	<i>Income unit type</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	Single	119,440	28.8	70.6	6.9	26.2
	Couple ⁶	30,737	21.0	50.7	3.6	9.1
2002	Single	115,315	32.9	74.2	7.6	29.4
	Couple ⁶	32,009	22.1	51.8	3.7	9.4
2003	Single	118,334	33.5	73.8	7.7	29.2
	Couple ⁶	34,434	20.3	50.4	3.5	8.7
2004	Single	121,751	31.7	71.5	6.7	27.3
	Couple ⁶	36,791	19.0	47.0	3.0	7.8
2005	Single	126,160	32.2	73.6	6.7	27.0
	Couple ⁶	38,819	19.7	47.4	3.4	7.6
2006	Single	128,610	32.1	72.9	6.7	26.4
	Couple ⁶	40,394	19.7	46.0	3.2	7.5
2007	Single	132,139	32.4	72.6	6.7	26.0
	Couple ⁶	41,872	19.7	45.3	3.2	7.6
2008	Single	134,949	34.1	73.0	7.9	27.3
	Couple ⁶	43,542	22.0	45.9	3.8	8.7
2009	Single	139,998	36.7	77.1	9.5	30.5
	Couple ⁶	44,768	25.5	49.2	5.1	11.2
2010	Single	144,193	33.2	73.6	9.1	24.3
	Couple ⁶	46,202	28.2	51.3	6.0	12.9
2011	Single	152,529	30.0	67.1	7.1	19.7
	Couple ⁶	47,819	25.2	45.5	4.9	10.4
2012	Single	158,392	29.9	67.5	7.7	19.8
	Couple ⁶	49,258	25.9	45.5	5.2	10.6
2013	Single	167,874	29.5	65.1	7.1	17.7
	Couple ⁶	51,760	25.5	44.1	5.2	10.2
2014	Single	174,722	30.3	65.2	7.4	18.2
	Couple ⁶	53,669	26.2	44.6	5.5	10.6

Source: Department of Social Services Housing Data Set

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

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.

⁶ Couples who are illness or temporarily separated are not included.