

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.7 Allowances and Concession

Question No: SQ15-000884

Topic: Commonwealth Rent Assistance

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Update Senate Community Affairs Committee Answers to Questions on Notice, Social Services portfolio, 2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings, Question No.216, for June 2014.

Provide Rent Assistance recipients by age, at June 2015.

Provide the location (eg. State and Territory) of Rent Assistance recipients impacted by the “sharers” rules, as at June 2015.

Provide details of the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients paying over 30% of their income in Rent, by state and territory and “rest of state/territory, as at June 2015.

In 2014-15, how much was spent on Rent Assistance nationally, and in each state and territory?

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

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% and 50% of their income in rent?

Answer:

Point in time data at 26 June 2015 have been used to derive the following tables at **Attachment A:**

- a) Update answers to questions on notice, Social Services portfolio, 2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings, Question 216:
 - i. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients by payment type, gender and Indigenous status, at June 2015.
 - ii. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients by gender and Indigenous status, at June 2015.
 - iii. Table 3 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients who pay enough rent to be eligible for the maximum rate of Rent Assistance by gender and Indigenous status, at June 2015.
 - iv. Table 4 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients in housing stress before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status, gender and payment type, at June 2015.
 - v. Table 5 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients who are sharing by payment type, gender and Indigenous status, at June 2015.
 - vi. Table 6 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status, gender and payment type, at June 2015.

- vii. Table 7 shows the number and percentage of Rent Assistance recipients paying more than 50 per cent of income in rent before and after Rent Assistance by Indigenous status, gender and state and territory, at June 2015.
- b) Table 8 shows Rent Assistance recipients by age, at June 2015.
- c) Table 9 shows the number of Rent Assistance recipients affected by the sharer's rules, by state and territory, at June 2015.
- d) Table 10 shows the proportion of Rent Assistance recipients paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent by state/territory capital city and rest of state/territory, at June 2015.
- e) Table 11 shows Rent Assistance expenditure nationally and by state and territory, at June 2015.
- f) Table 12 shows the number and proportion of Rent Assistance recipients receiving Newstart Allowance as a primary payment and paying in excess of 30 per cent and 50 per cent of their income in rent, at June 2001 to 2015.
- g) Table 13 shows the number and proportion of Rent Assistance recipients receiving Age Pension as a primary payment and paying in excess of 30 per cent and 50 per cent of their income in rent by single/couple, at June 2001 to 2015.