

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Remote Housing

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

Question reference number: 119

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What legal protections exist for tenants of houses deemed to be legacy dwellings, that is, houses that are not rebuilt or refurbished under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing?

Answer:

Houses deemed legacy houses under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing in the Northern Territory (NT) are houses that do not meet the standards set out in the *Residential Tenancies Act* (NT) (RTA). A tenancy agreement under the RTA cannot be signed with tenants residing in these dwellings.

Instead, residents of legacy houses are provided with an Occupancy Information Document (OID) that sets out the terms of the occupancy. An OID details that each adult resident is required to pay a housing maintenance levy and, in return, the household will receive regular repairs and maintenance and support services provided by the NT Government. The OID also confirms the house's occupants.

An OID is not regulated by the RTA but it does:

- provide the occupants with confirmation that they can continue to reside in the dwelling;
- set out information about the housing services offered by Territory Housing and information on the responsibilities of an occupant;
- list contact details for repairs, maintenance and general support; and
- give information and contacts relating to the right to review of a decision that affects members of the household.