

Thursday, 21 June 2012

Detached housing declines, apartments more popular

According to the 2011 Census figures released today the popularity of living in strata-type properties continues to shift with just under a quarter of a million more households calling apartments and townhouses home since 2006.

This represents a 1.3 percentage point increase in the proportion of households living in higher density homes. In the same period there has been a corresponding drop in the number of households calling detached houses home. This has decreased by 1 percent.

For an ever increasing number of people this means the detached house on a suburban block is no longer part of their Australian dream.

Strata Community Australia (SCA) Chief Executive Officer, Mark Lever says today's figures underscore the importance of the strata sector as more people chose this way of living.

"The sector faces even more challenges as people drift away from the traditional house on the quarter acre block," he said.

"We are experiencing the changing face of the way Australians live as many more choose the sort of flexible housing offered by townhouses and apartments. Often they are nearer to cities and major transport centres, which mean people have easier access to facilities, workplaces and entertainment."

The challenges come as more people are living in closer proximity to each other. This brings its own unique set of issues. For example in NSW a recently released report aimed at starting a wholesale strata law review confirmed that the three areas of most concern to people living in strata had now morphed from parties, pets and parking to now include a fourth - puffing - as smoking on balconies is now being raised as issue by some.

"The upsides to living in strata often outweigh the negatives and most people would agree that paying for someone else to maintain the property, the inclusion of amenities such as pools and gyms and living with a sense of community make this type of lifestyle far more enjoyable," Mr Lever said.

Access the ABS Census data via this link

http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/0

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About Strata Community Australia

Strata Community Australia is the new peak body for the strata sector. It brings together the former National Community Titles Institute, Institute of Strata Title Management (NSW), Community Titles Institute of Queensland, Owners Corporations Victoria, Community Titles Institute of South Australia, Strata Titles Institute of Western Australia and Strata Management Institute of the Australian Capital Territory under the one name with a new constitution and governance structure. Collectively there are 2500 individual and business members including strata managers, other specialist service providers and individual owners and investors. Unlike most industry bodies, the common denominator is the customer base - Australia's 276,000 bodies corporate, owners corporations, strata companies etc - rather than specific product or service categories. This makes SCA a powerful advocate both for its direct membership and the one-quarter of Australians households who live in apartments and townhouses.

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