

Pilbara rents top nation

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WA's Pilbara region has emerged as the most expensive place to rent both units and houses with a weekly median rent of \$1650.

Today's RP Data Rental Review showed house rents increased by a further 10 per cent in the region for the December quarter.

Meanwhile the data showed Darwin had become the most expensive Australian city in which to rent a house, after rents grew by 4.2 per cent in capital cities in 2010.

The median rent for a house in Darwin is \$520 per week, followed by Canberra at \$490 and Sydney at \$430.

Adelaide claimed the title as the cheapest place to rent a house with a weekly median of \$325 followed by Hobart at \$335.

"Across the combined house and unit market, rents increased by \$80 per week between March 2006 and December 2008 across the country whilst capital city rents increased by a total of \$90 per week," RP Data analyst Cameron Kusher said in a statement.

Since December 2008, median weekly advertised rents across the country have increased by just \$20 whilst within the capital city rental growth has been slightly higher at \$25 per week, with a \$5 per week improvement during the last

quarter, Mr Kusher said.

The data also showed median weekly advertised rents for capital city houses increased by 1.3 per cent and units by 1.4 per cent for the quarter and sit at \$380 per week and \$365 per week respectively.

Nationally, rents for houses and units showed no improvement during the December quarter and both houses and units have a median rent of \$350 per week.

Currently, the cheapest capital cities to rent units are in Hobart and Adelaide with each sharing a median rental rate of \$285. Perth followed with a median rental rate of \$330 per week.

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