

Public rental housing data collection 2010–11 Data Quality Statement

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Public rental housing data collection 2010–11 Data Quality Statement

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	495761
Registration status:	AIHW Data Quality Statements , Superseded 13/06/2013

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

Summary

- 2010–11 low income cut-offs (that is, the 40th percentile of equivalised gross household incomes for the 2010–11 financial year) were not available so the 2009–10 cut-offs were used in their place - as a result it is expected that the number of low income households will be under-reported.
- Care should be taken when comparing NSW 2010–11 data with previous reporting periods as a change in their client management system has led to the potential for changes in the descriptors.
- West Australian households and dwellings that were previously reported under the state owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) program are, as of 2010–11, being reported under public rental housing. As such, 2010–11 figures are not comparable to previous years.

Description

All states and territories provide a range of public housing programs and maintain administrative data sets about these programs. These data sets are provided annually to the AIHW. The data in this collection contain information about PH dwellings, households assisted and households on the waiting list during 2010–11 and at 30 June 2011.

Institutional environment: The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* (Cwth) to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent statutory authority established in 1987, governed by a management Board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national datasets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these datasets and disseminate information and statistics.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987, in conjunction with compliance to the Privacy Act 1988, (Cth) ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website www.aihw.gov.au.

Timeliness:

The AIHW receives, compiles, edits and verifies the public rental housing data in collaboration with jurisdictions, which retain ownership of the data and must approve any jurisdiction level output before it is released. The finalised data sets are used by the AIHW for collation, reporting and analysis. The reference period for the Public Housing (PH) collection is based on the financial year (ending 30 June). The specific reference period for these data is 2010–11.

Data are collected and published annually. The data for the 2010–11 reference period were due to be signed off by the jurisdictions and provided to AIHW by 22 of September 2011. A number of jurisdictions failed to meet this deadline with NSW signing off on 6 of October 2011, ACT signing off on 4 of November 2011 and SA signing off on 13 of January 2012.

Summary items and performance indicators from the 2010–11 PH collection were first published in the *Report on Government Services 2012* in (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision 2012) January 2012.

Accessibility:

Annual data is reported in *Housing Assistance in Australia* (this publication), the *Report on Government Services 2012*
http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/114975/59-government-services-2012-chapter16.pdf and the *Council of Australian Government (COAG) Reform Council's NAHA Report*
<http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/housing.cfm>.

Disaggregated data and unit record data may be requested through the national data repository and provided subject to jurisdiction approval. Contact housing@aihw.gov.au for further details.

Interpretability:

The annual publication (*Housing assistance in Australia*) provides a range of information to assist interpretation of data, including descriptions of the main programs and a glossary. Detailed metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the National Housing Assistance Data Dictionary (AIHW Cat no. HOU147). Supplementary information can be found in the public rental housing collection manual which is available upon request from the AIHW at housing@aihw.gov.au.

Relevance: The data collected are an administrative by-product of the management of public rental housing programs run by the jurisdictions and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.

Classifications used for income and greatest need are not consistent across the jurisdictions and are mapped to a common standard.

Not all jurisdictions collect or update all data items for every tenant so data item substitutions are made in some cases. In the instances where gross income is not available then assessable income is used in its place.

Data collected are appropriate for reporting outputs from the public rental housing programs of state and territory governments.

Accuracy: There are some known accuracy issues with the data collected:

- The administrative data sets from which this collection is drawn have inaccuracies to varying degrees including missing data, out-of-date data and data coding or recording errors.
- Not all jurisdictions capture all data items so substitution is required to calculate some outputs of this collection. Data items affected are gross and assessable income. In addition, disability status is derived using the receipt of a disability pension as a proxy in some jurisdictions.
- Low income cut-offs for 2010–11 (that is, the 40th percentile of equivalised gross household incomes for the 2010–11 financial year) were not available so the 2009-10 cut-offs were used in their place. As a result it is expected that the number of low income households will be under-reported.
- For some jurisdictions, disability information may be self-identified and not mandatory under program eligibility requirements.
- Indigenous status is self-identified and not mandatory under program eligibility requirements.
- Many jurisdictions do not update income information for non-rebated households, so outputs produced using data from these households should be used with caution.
- Estimates produced using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) are rounded and this may cause discrepancies between estimates produced for regions and those produced for the total of the regions.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

New South Wales

- The total number of new applicants on the waiting list who have a greatest need has been supplied by the jurisdiction rather than calculated using the unit record data due to incomplete data.
- The total number of Indigenous households has been supplied by the jurisdiction rather than calculated using the unit record data as the NSW public housing system undercounts Indigenous tenancies.

Victoria

- Bedroom requirements are unknown for many households in Victoria that have not applied for or receive a rental rebate. A total of 4,964 households (7.9%) are excluded from overcrowding calculations due to missing information.

South Australia

- The rental stress figures for South Australia have been supplied by the jurisdiction rather than calculated using the unit record data due to errors in the data.

Australian Capital Territory

- A total of 12% of public rental housing households (1,316) is excluded from affordability calculations due to missing income information.

Coherence:

Care is required when comparing outputs across jurisdictions. Differences in the data collected and which records are included or excluded from a calculation can affect the coherence of the outputs. Coherence over time has been affected by changes in methodology:

- Low income figures measured cannot be compared with low-income figures produced before 2009-10 due to a change in methodology.
- Overcrowding and underuse figures cannot be compared with figures produced before 2009-10 due to a change in methodology.

The bedroom entitlement policies of state and territory housing authorities may differ from those of the Canadian National Occupancy Standard which is used in dwelling utilisation calculations.

Specific State/Territory issues are outlined below.

New South Wales

- Care should be taken when comparing 2010–11 data with those for previous reporting periods as a change in the client management system has led to the potential for changes in the descriptors.
- The total number of Indigenous households is not comparable with numbers for other jurisdictions due to the methodology adopted (based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for Census undercounting of public housing households).
- The total number of new applicants in the waiting list who have a 'greatest need' is not comparable with the years preceding 2009-10 as, at that time households with 'very high rental housing costs' were excluded because 'high private rental costs' was not deemed a reason for 'priority' housing in NSW.

Western Australia

- Households and dwellings that were previously reported under the state owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) program are public rental housing. As such, 2010–11 figures are not comparable to previous years.

Care should be taken when comparing data with the AIHW's Community Housing and Indigenous Community Housing collections as different collection methodologies and collection units can lead to data incompatibilities.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes**Related metadata references:**

Has been superseded by [Public Rental Housing data collection, 2011–12; Quality Statement](#)
[AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 05/06/2015