

# Community housing data collection 2010–11 Data Quality Statement

## Identifying and definitional attributes

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## Data quality

### Quality statement summary:

### Summary

- All states and territories provide the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) with community housing data from their administrative systems. The AIHW compiles this data for reporting in the Report on Government Services (RoGS), the COAG Reform Council's National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) Report and internal publications and bulletins.
- Additionally, unit record community housing data is collected through a survey managed by the AIHW, which is provided to community housing organisations. Survey response rates vary, from 43% of the dwelling portfolio in Tasmania to 100% coverage in the ACT. Three jurisdictions (NSW, Qld and NT) do not use the AIHW-managed survey and do not provide the AIHW with unit record data.
- Care should be taken when comparing data across jurisdictions or between years as data are sourced via a survey of community housing organisations and are subject to variations in response rate.
- National outputs and indicators were calculated using only those jurisdictions where complete information is available and valid.

### Description

Data are provided annually to the AIHW by jurisdictions and are sourced from community housing organisations via survey and from the jurisdiction's administrative systems. The annual data collection captures information about community housing organisations, the dwellings they manage and the tenants assisted. Limited financial information from the financial year is also collected.

**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*, (Cwth) 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](http://www.aihw.gov.au).

**Timeliness:** Data are collected and published annually. The reference period for this collection is the 2010–11 financial year and is mostly a 30 June 2011 snapshot, but also captures 2010–11 household activity. Limited financial information from the 2009–10 financial year is also collected.

Data was due to be submitted to the AIHW on 26 August 2011. NSW, South Australia, Tasmania and the NT did not make this deadline, while the other four jurisdictions were on time with their data submissions. The AIHW had received data from all jurisdictions by 14 September 2011. Finalised data was signed off by jurisdictions and made available for publishing on 7 November 2011.

**Accessibility:** Annual data is reported in *Housing Assistance in Australia* (this publication), the *2012 Report on government services*  
[http://www.pc.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/114975/59-government-services-2012-chapter16.pdf](http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/114975/59-government-services-2012-chapter16.pdf) and the *COAG Reform Council's national affordable housing agreement report*  
<http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/housing.cfm>.

Users can request additional disaggregations of data-which is not available online or in reports- subject to jurisdiction approval, via the Housing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on (02) 6244 1000 or via email to [housing@aihw.gov.au](mailto:housing@aihw.gov.au). Requests that take longer than half an hour to compile are charged for on a cost-recovery basis. General enquiries about AIHW publications can be made to the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit on (02) 6244 1032 or via email to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

**Interpretability:** Metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the National Housing Assistance Data Dictionary (AIHW Cat no. HOU147)  
</content/index.phtml/itemId/181162>.

Supplementary information can be found in the housing collection data manuals which are available upon request from the AIHW.

**Relevance:** Community housing, for the purpose of this collection, includes all tenancy (rental) units managed by a community housing organisation (excluding Indigenous community housing organisations). Additional jurisdiction-specific inclusions and exclusions also apply.

The data collected by the jurisdictions conform well in terms of reference period; however, due to the jurisdiction-specific inclusions and exclusions, the data does not conform well in terms of scope and coverage.

The data are highly relevant for monitoring trends in the number of households assisted in CH. The data are used for many purposes, including by policy-makers to evaluate both the living conditions of tenants in CH dwellings and the amount of rent paid by tenants relative to their income as well as to assess the efficiency of CHOs in providing CH dwellings.

**Accuracy:** Data are subject to survey response rates and are incomplete for some jurisdictions. The information was sourced via a survey of community housing organisations and levels of accuracy are subject to the response rate achieved across the jurisdictions as outlined below.

State/territory	Response rate
New South Wales	Of the 154 community housing organisations, 32 responded to the survey accounting for over 98 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio. Data for NSW are weighted to account for non-response
Victoria	Of the 110 community housing organisations, 84 responded to the survey accounting for over 98 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio
Queensland	Of the 259 community housing organisations, 108 provided administrative data accounting for 78 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio
Western Australia	Of the 181 community housing organisations, 58 responded to the survey accounting for 73 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio
South Australia	Of the 89 community housing organisations, 86 responded to the survey accounting for 99 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio
Tasmania	Of the 89 community housing organisations, 40 responded to the survey accounting for 43 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio
The Australian Capital Territory	All of the six community housing organisations responded to the survey accounting for 100 per cent of the total dwelling portfolio

As in previous years, the Northern Territory did not survey its community housing sector for 2010–11.

National outputs and indicators were calculated using only those jurisdictions where complete information is available and valid. Household and dwelling information from those community housing organisations which received Australian Government funding as one-off grants in the past is generally not available, and may be excluded from reporting.

Applicants may appear on waiting lists of more than one community housing organisation, with the exception of Queensland and South Australia where consolidated waiting lists are in operation.

All jurisdictions except Queensland were unable to provide all National Rental Affordability Scheme properties due to data quality issues.

Specific State/Territory issues:

#### **New South Wales**

The proportion of low income households is based on those households in receipt

of Centrelink benefits as their main source of income, and has been applied to survey responses. NSW is unable to provide gross income so assessable income has been used to calculate equivalised 'gross' income used in determining low-income status.

In April 2010, NSW implemented an integrated social housing waiting list, combining public and community housing into a single list. Waiting list data are now reported as public housing. This has resulted in data not being available for all community housing providers at 30 June 2011.

Financial activity data for the year ending 30 June 2010 are sourced from quarterly submissions from providers' administrative data.

### **Victoria**

Due to data quality issues identified with data returns, a number of households previously flagged as Indigenous now have a status of unknown.

### **Queensland**

Queensland has one waiting list for all social housing. Using this list to report against community housing alone leads to an overestimate of the number of households waiting to be allocated a community housing dwelling.

Net recurrent costs are not comparable with previous years due to a change in methodology in CH provider response rates. Coherence over time has been affected by this change.

### **Western Australia**

The number of households at 30 June 2011 may be an overestimate due to underlying data quality issues. This may affect measures of occupancy. Occupied tenancy (rental) units used to provide additional housing support are not included.

### **South Australia**

A centralised community housing waitlist was implemented in March 2010 and most organisations use this waiting list. In the 2010–11 community housing survey, a number of organisations also provided separate waiting list figures. These figures have been added to the centralised community housing waiting list figure, which may overstate the waiting list figure.

Dwelling counts include one dwelling used as an office.

### **Tasmania**

Community housing data includes one occupied tenancy (rental) unit used to provide additional housing support.

### **Australian Capital Territory**

The number of households at 30 June 2011 may be an underestimate, whilst the number of tenancy (rental) units may be an overestimate due to underlying data quality issues. This may affect measures of occupancy.

### **Northern Territory**

It is assumed that all dwellings are tenable.

**Coherence:** Care is required when comparing outputs within a jurisdiction with results from previous reporting periods due to variability in survey response rates of community housing organisations.

National performance indicator results were calculated where complete data were available and valid (that is, both numerator and denominator were available and valid). Some Indigenous households may be under-reported as data are based on Indigenous self-identification.

There have been changes in the methodology for collecting data on community housing waiting lists in all jurisdictions, which has affected the numbers reported for 'Total new applicants with greatest need' and 'Total applicants on waiting list'.

On 22 May 2009, Housing Ministers agreed to integrate public and community housing waiting lists in all jurisdictions by July 2011. NSW, Queensland, WA, the ACT, and the NT, each have integrated waiting lists. South Australia has a register that integrates multiple community housing waiting lists into a single housing register and Tasmania uses a manual integrated system. Victoria has an integrated approach involving a referral process but does not yet have a common waiting list.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

- Queensland: There have been changes in the methodology for collecting data on allocation of new households which may affect the number of new households. Properties managed under the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Nation Building and Jobs Program were included this year for the first time.
- Queensland: There has been an increased response rate from larger community housing organisation which may have affected the number of Indigenous and disability households.
- Queensland: Changes in methodology may have affected the results for total net recurrent costs.
- South Australia: A centralised community housing waitlist was implemented in March 2010. Category 1 need is used as a proxy for greatest need for the centralised waitlist. Category 1 need includes those who are deemed to be in urgent housing need with long term barriers to accessing or maintaining private housing options.
- South Australia: Improving data quality may have significantly increased the number of newly assisted households. The increased number of newly assisted households that were in greatest need at time of allocation, and the increased number of disability households may be due to improvements in data collection methods.
- South Australia: Total untenable tenancy (rental) units in 2009–10 included work in progress properties that were nearly completed. Work in progress properties that were nearly completed were not included in 2010–11.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Has been superseded by [Community housing data collection 2011–12 Data Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 25/07/2014

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