

Private rent assistance 2011-12 Data Quality Statement

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
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Data quality

Data quality statement summary: All states and territories provide the AIHW with Private Rent Assistance (PRA) data from their administrative systems. The AIHW compiles this data for annual national reporting on the National Affordable Housing Agreement and internal publications and bulletins.

Care should be taken when comparing data across jurisdictions, given differences in the types of PRA programs run and differences in the broader jurisdictional housing systems.

Care should also be taken when comparing data across time due to changes in the underlying PRA programs and how they are classified.

All states and territories provide PRA and maintain administrative data sets about these programs. These data sets are provided annually to the AIHW. This collection contains data about PRA received during 2011–12 financial year.

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](#) 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 data sets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these data sets 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.

The AIHW receives, compiles, edits and verifies the PRA 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.

Timeliness: The reference period for the PRA data collection is based on the financial year (ending 30 June). Data are collected and published annually. The specific reference period for these data is 2011–12.

Summary data items from the 2011-12 PRA data collection were first published in the *National Agreement Performance Information 2011-12: National Affordable Housing Agreement* (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) in December 2012.

Accessibility: Annual data are reported in *National Agreement Performance Information 2011-12: National Affordable Housing Agreement* http://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/123893/affordable-housing-2011-12.pdf and in AIHW publications including *Housing Assistance in Australia* and *Australia's Welfare*. 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: Detailed metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the Data Set Specifications, which can be downloaded from the AIHW website at [/content/index.phtml/itemId/480492](http://content/index.phtml/itemId/480492), and in the *National housing and homelessness data dictionary*, which can be downloaded from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543695>. Supplementary information can be found in the PRA data 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 PRA programs administered by the jurisdictions and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.

PRA for the purpose of this collection relates to the provision of financial assistance to enable households to access and maintain accommodation in the private rental market and includes:

- bond loans
- rental grants
- rental subsidies
- relocation expenses
- other assistance grants.

The collection excludes non-financial assistance, for example, tenancy support services and tenancy guarantees.

Not all jurisdictions collect or update all data items for every household so data item substitutions are made in some cases. Data collected are appropriate for reporting outputs from the PRA 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 and data coding or recording errors.

Care should be taken in interpreting the number of households assisted by each type of assistance with respect to inferring a total number of households assisted by each jurisdiction. Some households received multiple types of assistance. Thus, a simple sum of the number of households assisted across each assistance type would overstate the total number of households assisted due to double counting. Where households receive multiple types of private rental assistance, the total number of households assisted by a jurisdiction will be less than the sum of the number of households assisted by each type of assistance.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

Victoria

Data on PRA funded under the Victorian Housing Establishment Fund (HEF) was not collected for the 2011-12 collection. The jurisdiction provided estimates based on funding levels and historical data. This information is provided in footnotes to the data where relevant.

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 the methodology:

- numbers of households assisted by rental grants, subsidies and relief cannot be compared with figures produced prior to 2011-12 due to a change in methodology.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

New South Wales

The 2011-12 collection does not include hotel/motel assistance. Previously hotel/motel assistance was included under rental grants, subsidies and relief. Thus, data on the number of households assisted by rental grants, subsidies and relief is not comparable with data from 2010-11 and earlier reference periods.

South Australia

In the 2011-12 collection hotel/motel assistance was reported under 'other' assistance. In the 2010-11 collection hotel/motel assistance was reported under rental grants, subsidies and relief. Thus, data are not comparable across collection years.

Data products

Implementation start date: 16/08/2013

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Private rent assistance 2012-13 Data Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 05/06/2015