

Public Rental Housing data collection, 2013-14; 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:

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 public rental housing (PH) dwellings, households assisted and households on the waiting list during 2013–14 and at 30 June 2014.

Summary

- The data collected are an administrative by-product of the management of PH programs run by the jurisdictions and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.
- 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data sets from which this collection is drawn have inaccuracies to varying degrees, including missing data, out-of-date data and data coding or recording errors.
- 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.

Institutional environment: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (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 corporate Commonwealth entity established in 1987, governed by a [management Board](#), and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health 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 data in collaboration with jurisdictions. The finalised data sets are signed off by the jurisdictions and used by the AIHW for reporting and analysis.

Timeliness: 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 are 2013–14.

Accessibility: Annual data are reported in [Housing Assistance in Australia](#), which is available publicly on the AIHW website and the [Report on Government Services 2015](#).

Users can request additional disaggregations of data which are not available online or in reports (subject to jurisdiction approval) via the AIHW's online data request system at https://datarequest.aihw.gov.au/_layouts/AdHocDataRequest/LodgeRequest.aspx. 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 Digital & Media Communications Unit on (02) 6244 1032 or via email to 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. HOU269) <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail?id=60129543695>.

Supplementary information can be found in the housing collection data manuals available at [content/index.phtml/itemId/487037](#).

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, greatest need and vacancy reason are not consistent across the jurisdictions and are mapped to a common standard.

Accuracy:

There are 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;
- for some jurisdictions, information about disability is not mandatory to report under program eligibility requirements;
- Indigenous status is self-identified and not mandatory to report under program eligibility requirements;
- many jurisdictions do not update income information for non-rebated households, outputs produced that require income information may not be complete and accurate;
- 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;
- disaggregation can lead to small to very small cell sizes which may be volatile - very small cells have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

New South Wales

- Since a system change in 2010, NSW continues to report problems encountered when linking files containing date variables within their system. This may occur when linking 'Dwelling history', 'Household' and 'Waitlist' files. Where date variables contradict between files, they are recoded as missing.
- Data on 'number of Indigenous households at 30 June' is incomplete and unreliable so is substituted with estimates based on data from the 2011 census.

Tasmania

- **In 2013-14, 238 new tenancies were unable to be coded as new allocations or transfers due to system issues.**

Coherence:

Data for individual jurisdictions may not be comparable to previous years due to differences in the accuracy of the data over time. Differences between jurisdictions concerning incomplete or missing information, out-of-date information and coding errors can affect the coherence of the outputs.

Coherence over time has been affected by changes in methodology:

- measurements using low income cannot be directly compared with low income figures produced prior to 2009-10 due to a change in methodology;
- measurements of overcrowding cannot be directly compared with figures produced prior to 2009-10 due to a change in methodology;
- measurements of underutilisation cannot be directly compared with figures produced prior to 2011-12 due to a change in methodology.

State and Territory Government housing authorities' bedroom entitlement policies may differ from the Canadian National Occupancy Standard which is used in dwelling utilisation calculations.

Specific State/Territory issues are:

Tasmania

- In 2013-14, 2,222 public housing dwellings were transferred to be managed by the community sector, and 238 new tenancies were unable to be coded as new allocations or transfers due to system issues.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Public Rental Housing data collection, 2012-13; Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 05/06/2015

Has been superseded by [Public Rental Housing Data Collection, 2014-15; Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 06/01/2017