

Indigenous Community Housing Collection, 2015-16; Quality Statement

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	660255
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIHW Data Quality Statements, Superseded 06/06/2018

Data quality

Quality statement summary:

Description

Data are provided annually to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) by jurisdictions and are sourced from Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) and jurisdictions' administrative systems and audits.

An ICHO is any organisation that is responsible for managing medium- to long-term housing for Indigenous people. This includes community organisations such as resource agencies and land councils, which have a range of functions, provided that they manage housing for Indigenous people.

The annual data collection captures information about ICHOs, the dwellings they manage and the households assisted at 30 June 2016. Financial information is for the year ending 30 June 2016.

Summary

- All states and territories except the Australian Capital Territory (which does not provide Indigenous community housing), provide the AIHW with Indigenous Community Housing (ICH) data from their administrative systems. The AIHW compiles these data for national reporting in the *Report on government services* (RoGS). The data are also published in AIHW reports.
- Additionally, unit record Indigenous community housing data are collected from ICHOs via data collection tools managed by the AIHW.
- In many cases complete data were not available for all dwellings or ICHOs in a given jurisdiction.
- Care is required when comparing outputs across states and territories. Differences in the data collected, including 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 (see 'coherence' section for details).

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 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 AIHW 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 AIHW 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](#), (Commonwealth of Australia) 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 states and territories. The finalised data sets are signed off by the jurisdictions and used by the AIHW for reporting and analysis.

Timeliness: Data are collected annually. The reference period for this collection is the 2015–16 financial year and is mostly a 30 June 2016 snapshot.

Accessibility: Data are reported in the AIHW's annual [Housing assistance in Australia](#) reports.

Users can request additional disaggregation of data which are not available online or in reports (subject to the AIHW's confidentiality policy and state and territory approval) via the AIHW's online data request system at <https://datarequest.aihw.gov.au>. Depending on the nature of the request, requests for access to unpublished data may also incur costs or require approval from the AIHW Ethics Committee.

General enquiries about AIHW publications can be made to the Digital & Media Communications Unit on (02) 6244 1026 or via email to info@aihw.gov.au.

Interpretability: Metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the [National housing and homelessness data dictionary](#) (AIHW Cat no. HOU269).

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

Relevance: The scope of Indigenous community housing, for the purpose of this collection, only includes information about ICHOs that received government funding for the provision of housing assistance within the financial year, with the exception of counts of known unfunded ICHOs and the number of permanent dwellings managed by these unfunded ICHOs.

The data collected are from states and territories and comprise information from administrative systems, dwelling audits conducted by states and territories and from ICHOs through data collection tools. The data conform well in terms of scope, and reference period but vary considerably in terms of coverage as data in a number of jurisdictions are not complete for all dwellings or ICHOs.

Classifications used are not always consistent across the states and territories. For example, total recurrent costs and net recurrent costs are meant to exclude depreciation but do not in all jurisdictions or all ICHOs within a jurisdiction.

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

Accuracy: The information is sourced via jurisdiction administrative systems, dwelling audits conducted by states and territories and from ICHOs through data collection tools. Data are incomplete for some states and territories due to non-reporting or under-reporting by ICHOs.

There are known accuracy issues with the data collected:

- The ICHO and state/territory housing authority administrative systems have inaccuracies to varying degrees including missing data, inconsistent data, out-of-date data and data coding or recording errors.
- Not all organisations capture and report all data items—data may not be collected and reported in a manner consistent with national data definitions.
- Information on Indigenous status is not collected. All households are assumed to include at least one Indigenous member.
- Performance indicators, reported as proportions have been adjusted for non-response by excluding unknown values and missing responses from the denominator. The national performance indicators, reported as proportions, were calculated using data where both numerator and denominator were available and valid. In the absence of an independent and reliable national data set containing information about the size and characteristics of the ICH sector, no other attempt was made to correct the data for errors (for example, where no information was provided for an ICHO, where there were missing records for specific households/dwellings managed by an ICHO, for missing records, or for unknown values).

State and territory-specific issues:

New South Wales

- Total recurrent costs excludes depreciation.
- There was a lower response rate from funded ICHOs this year. This meant a decrease in the reported number of households, occupied permanent dwellings, people in permanent dwellings, and bedrooms.
- ICHOs have provided more complete data than in 2014–15 meaning there are increases in rent charged to (and collected from) tenants.
- Housing maintenance expenditure decreased in 2015–16 because the NPARIH refurbishment program was wound down by the early months of this collection period.
- Total capital expenditure funded by NPARIH in 2015–16 was significantly lower compared with the previous year as the new supply targets were lower.

Queensland

- Queensland provided data collected from ICHOs for the first time in 2015–16. The total number of occupied permanent dwellings managed by funded organisations increased between 2014–15 and 2015–16 because the 2015–16 data includes dwellings managed by the not-for-profit sector (collected via

ICHO data collection tools). Prior to 2015–16, data was sourced only from Queensland’s administrative systems.

- Total recurrent costs and net recurrent costs for 2015–16 are not comparable with prior years due to different inclusions and exclusions. Prior to 2015–16, data for total recurrent costs and net recurrent costs were identical to housing maintenance expenditure due to the unavailability of additional data. Queensland only held information on maintenance and upgrade costs funded in communities with government tenancy management. Since maintenance costs are a component of all three measures, and the only data available, all measures reported the same total. From 2015–16, data includes additional expenditure
- The number of permanent dwellings tenancy managed by funded ICHOs increased in 2015–16, mainly due to the shift of tenancy management for one organisation from government-managed back to ICHO-managed.

Western Australia

- ‘Total recurrent expenses’ excludes depreciation. This is consistent with previous years.
- The WA government’s Housing Authority rolled out the Head Maintenance Contractor Model for remote Aboriginal communities on 1 July 2015. The funding structure under the new contracts has contributed to the decrease in housing maintenance expenditure.

South Australia

- The Aboriginal Community Housing Program funding to ICHOs ceased at 30 June 2015. This was state-administered funding sourced from the Commonwealth. Some residual funding continued in 2015–16 to a small number of ICHOs. Therefore there are no longer any permanent dwellings where the tenancy is managed by funded ICHOs.

Tasmania

- Information on households, including the number of additional bedrooms required, is not reported by ICHOs. Therefore, this information is not available for national reporting.
- One ICHO includes depreciation in the calculation of net expenditure while the other does not.

Northern Territory

- A total of 5,046 remote dwellings are not currently reported in either the Indigenous Community Housing data collection or the Public Housing data collection, as at 30 June 2016. The Northern Territory government has advised that they are aiming to report on these dwellings from 2016–17.

Coherence:

Data for individual states and territories may not be comparable to previous years due to differences in the accuracy of the data over time. These differences include the data collection source, the completeness of reporting both in regards to ICHOs, the data and instances of unknown values recorded for data items. Data quality issues have varied over the year. For specific caveats on previous years’ data, consult the footnotes and data quality statements in the relevant edition of the *Housing assistance in Australia* report.

From 2009–10, the scope of most data items within the ICH collection was restricted to ICHOs that received funding within the financial year. This is consistent with the scope of the 2006–07 and earlier collections. In comparison, in the 2007–08 and 2008–09 collections, more data items reflected the performance of both funded and unfunded ICHOs.

Previously, the Australian Government had administrative responsibility for some ICHOs in Victoria, Queensland and all ICHOs in Tasmania. Data for these dwellings were reported collectively under the jurisdiction ‘Australian Government’. In 2009, responsibility for these ICHOs was transferred to the respective state or territory. Data for these dwellings are now reported under the relevant state or territory.

State and territory-specific issues:

New South Wales

- From 2012–13, New South Wales reported information about funded ICHOs, the dwellings they managed and the households they assisted. Prior to 2012–13, New South Wales reported proxy information about providers that were actively registered with the Aboriginal Housing Office. Some of these registered providers were not funded. This change in the population reported within the data collection may have contributed to the reported decrease in the number of funded ICHOs in 2012–13 and the reported changes across a number of descriptive data and performance indicators. Therefore, data from 2012–13 may not be comparable with earlier reporting periods.
- Improved coverage from 2013–14 resulted in increased rental data compared to previous years.
- Information on additional bedrooms required for a household was not available for the 2014–15 collection period.
- Complete data for capital expenditure at the organisational level was unavailable in 2013–14. Thus, capital expenditure data for permanent dwellings in 2013–14 may not be comparable to that of other years.

Victoria

- From 2009–10, both Aboriginal Housing Victoria and ICHO activity is reported, since assuming administrative responsibility for the former Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP), previously managed by the Commonwealth. For the 2 years prior to 2009–10, Victoria reported Aboriginal Housing Victoria activity only.

Queensland

- Prior to 2012–13, missing household records were imputed based on the assumption that there was one household living in each permanent dwelling. From 2012–13, these data were no longer imputed. Care is advised when comparing household data from prior to 2012–13 with subsequent years.
- Implementation of new rent procedures in 2013–14 resulted in higher reported rents from 2013–14 onwards.

Western Australia

- Historically, where only partial information was known when calculating overcrowding, Western Australia imputed the remaining information. This change in methodology contributed to the reported increase in the number of households included in the calculation of overcrowding and may have contributed to the reported decrease in overcrowding from 2013–14 onwards.
- Rent reform has been introduced in a staged manner since 1 July 2013 for tenants in remote communities with houses newly built or refurbished. The new rents are capped at a maximum of 25% of assessable household income. Rent collected has increased as a result of this change.

South Australia

- From 2012–13, data are only reported for tenancies managed by the state housing authority (with the exception of an estimated count of permanent dwellings managed by funded ICHOs). Prior to 2012–13, all dwelling and household data were based on tenancy and asset audit data.
- Data for rates of overcrowding cannot be compared to those from 2012–13 and 2013–14, as unexpected data quality issues contributed to a lack of availability of overcrowding data for these two reporting periods.

Tasmania

- A new arrears policy was implemented in 2012–13. This has contributed to improvements in data quality for rent since 2013–14.
- In 2012–13, data for net recurrent costs included costs for depreciation on rental housing which resulted in identical information for total and net recurrent costs. This has been excluded in the 2013–14 data. Thus, data may not be comparable with previous years.
- Due to data quality issues, data for several household indicators are not comparable between the two collection periods of 2013–14 and 2014–15.

Northern Territory

- Around 5,000 social housing dwellings in the Northern Territory have been excluded from administrative data collections since being transferred from Indigenous community housing to remote public housing between 2008 and 2010. A total of 5,046 remote dwellings are not currently reported as at 30 June 2016. The Northern Territory government has advised that they are aiming to report on these dwellings from 2016–17.
- From 2014–15, data relate to permanently occupied dwellings. No distinction is made between permanent and improvised dwellings, due to a change in the funding methodology with permanent occupied dwellings being funded regardless of their construction type. Thus, caution is advised when comparing data from 2014–15 onwards with that of previous years.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Indigenous Community Housing Collection, 2014-15: Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 06/06/2017

Has been superseded by [Indigenous Community Housing Collection, 2016–17: Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 03/07/2019

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