

Home Purchase Assistance Collection, 2017–18; 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

States and territories provide financial assistance to households to improve their access to home ownership through a number of programs and maintain administrative data sets about these programs. Extracts of these data sets are provided annually to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The Home Purchase Assistance (HPA) programs offered by the states and territories are:

- direct lending (Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory and formerly by New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory)
- deposit assistance (Western Australia and Tasmania and formerly by Queensland)
- interest rate assistance (South Australia)
- mortgage relief (Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory and formerly New South Wales)
- other assistance grants (Tasmania and the Northern Territory).

Data include the:

- number of households that received:
 - HPA during the 2017–18 financial year; and
 - repayable forms of HPA prior to the 2017–18 financial year for which monies remain outstanding at the commencement of the 2017–18 financial year
- value of HPA received during the 2017–18 financial year.

Summary

- The data collected are an administrative by-product of the management of HPA programs delivered by states and territories and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.
- The data are published in AIHW reports.
- When comparing data across states and territories, consider the differences in the types of HPA programs and differences in the broader state and territory housing systems.
- Care should also be taken when comparing data across time due to changes in the underlying HPA programs and how they are classified.

Institutional environment:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is an independent corporate Commonwealth entity under the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987 \(AIHW Act\)](#), governed by a [management Board](#), and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health portfolio.

The AIHW is a nationally recognised management agency. Its purpose is to create authoritative and accessible information and statistics that inform decisions and improve the health and welfare of all Australians.

The AIHW enables other organisations to improve their policies and services and achieve their goals by making better use of evidence—a fundamental requirement for good decision making. It collects and reports on a wide range of topics and issues, including health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, mental health, 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 datasets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these data sets and disseminate information and statistics.

Compliance with confidentiality requirements in the AIHW Act, Privacy Principles in the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cth) and its data governance arrangements ensures that the AIHW is well positioned to release information for public benefit while protecting the identity of individuals and organisations. It also ensures that data providers can be confident that the AIHW will adhere to data supply terms and conditions.

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 states and territories and used by the AIHW for reporting, analysis and approved ad hoc data requests.

Timeliness:

The reference period for the HPA data collection is based on the financial year (ending 30 June). The specific reference period for these data is 2017–18.

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://www.aihw.gov.au/our-services/data-on-request>. 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 directed to info@aihw.gov.au.

Interpretability:

Metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the [Home purchase assistance data set specification 2013](#).

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

Relevance:

The data collected are an administrative by-product of the management of HPA programs run by the states and territories and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.

HPA, for the purpose of this collection, relates to the provision of financial assistance to enable households to improve their access to home ownership and includes:

- direct lending (including government loans, shared equity loans and bridging loans)
- deposit assistance
- interest rate assistance
- mortgage relief
- other assistance grants.

It excludes:

- non-financial assistance, e.g. home purchase advisory and counselling services
- home renovation/maintenance services
- sale to tenant programs
- any assistance that does not directly facilitate the purchase of a home
- relocation or start up assistance
- the provision of housing or any share of it
- any expense incurred in providing assistance to a household that is not the value of financial assistance received directly by the household
- any aspect of a shared equity loan that is not direct lending, deposit assistance, interest rate assistance, or mortgage relief.

In-scope households are those that received:

- HPA assistance in the 2017–18 financial year, and
- repayable forms of HPA provided prior to the 2017–18 financial year for which monies remain outstanding at the commencement of the 2017–18 financial year.

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 and data coding or recording errors.
- Not all states and territories collect all data items.
- Information about the Indigenous status of the household is not collected for some programs within the HPA collection. Approximately 14% of all households reported in the 2017–18 collection had an unknown Indigenous status. As a result, caution should be taken when interpreting data relating to Indigenous people.

State- and territory-specific issues:

New South Wales

- Indigenous status of the household is undercounted as it is not collected for some programs.

Victoria

- Indigenous status is not collected.
- Gross weekly income is not available.

Queensland

- Indigenous status is not collected.

Western Australia

- Gross weekly income is assessed as the latest annual household income divided by 52 weeks. Gross weekly income is not available for all loans mainly due to the age of loans and the age of the system.
- Indigenous status is unavailable for a number of records due to the age of the loans.

Tasmania

- Tasmania offers a program called 'Home Share' which is a shared equity loan program for households with low to moderate income. The data for this scheme have been classified by Tasmania as 'other assistance grants' rather than 'direct lending' because the scheme also offers assistance with fees and maintenance.

Australian Capital Territory

- Gross weekly income is only available for 1 record due to the age of the loans.

Northern Territory

- Indigenous status is not collected.
- Gross weekly income is not available.

Coherence:

Differences in the data collected, including which records are included or excluded from a calculation, affect the coherence of the output and comparisons between states and territories.

Coherence over time has also been affected by changes in how HPA is reported. For example, Home Purchase Advisory and Counselling Services have been excluded from the collection since 2009–10, meaning comparisons with years prior to 2010–11 should be made with caution.

The gross weekly household income is at the time of application with the following exceptions:

- New South Wales—data are collected a number of times throughout the course of the loan. The gross weekly household income is a requirement for the application. A Statement of Income, Assets & Liabilities can also be issued when trying to organise the monthly repayments. This can be issued multiple times if a request to vary repayments is received. The most recent record is used for reporting
- Victoria and the Northern Territory—not provided.

State- and territory-specific issues:

New South Wales

- Indigenous status of the household is undercounted as it is not collected for some programs. If the programs are no longer offered to new applicants, the data are not updated to reflect the current household status.

Western Australia

- From the 2011–12 collection period, there were significant changes in how data were collected:

‘Other’ assistance reflected waived mortgage insurance on direct lending. Prior to the 2011–12 collection, ‘other’ assistance reflected loans that funded the state’s share of equity in the shared equity dwellings.

The number of households assisted through direct lending reflects both households that were issued loans in the 2011–12 financial year and households that were issued loans in a previous year that had outstanding balances on that assistance. Prior to the 2011–12 collection, only households that were issued loans within the current financial year were reported.

Households with current loans issued before October 2009 with a relatively low variable rate are reported as having received direct lending assistance. Prior to 2011–12, these households were reported as having received interest rate assistance.

Therefore, Western Australia data from previous years are not directly comparable to data from 2011–12 and onwards.

- In 2014–15, a larger number of households identified themselves as Indigenous than in previous years, reflecting better quality data than in previous reporting periods.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [Home Purchase Assistance Collection, 2016–17; Quality Statement
AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 28/03/2019

Has been superseded by [Home Purchase Assistance Collection, 2018–19; Quality
Statement](#)
[AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 22/01/2021