



Australian Government

Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

AIHW



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Social Housing Regulation Review,
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Submission to the Independent Panel of the Social Housing for the Social Housing Regulation Review

Dear Ms Yannuccelli

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Independent Panel of the Social Housing for the Social housing in Victoria Consultation Paper 2 – Service delivery and the tenant experience Social Housing Review. This submission details the housing data available from AIHW that may be of relevance.

The AIHW is the leading health and welfare statistics agency in Australia and is regarded as an international leader in this sector. We improve the health and welfare of all Australians by providing information and statistics that can be trusted and used with confidence. Our high quality, independent evidence is used by many to improve policies and services on a range of health and welfare issues and topics, including homelessness and housing assistance.

We manage the following national housing and homelessness data collections on behalf of all state and territory governments:

- [Public Housing and State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing data collections](#): capturing information about Public Housing and State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing dwellings and the tenants assisted
- [Community Housing data collection](#): capturing information about community housing organisations, the dwellings they manage and the tenants assisted
- [Indigenous Community Housing data collection](#): capturing information about ICH organisations, the dwellings they manage and tenants assisted
- [Home Purchase Assistance](#) and [Private Rent Assistance](#) data sets capturing state/territory financial assistance programs.
- [National Social Housing Survey](#): capturing information on social housing tenants (including community housing tenants) and their social housing experiences

Findings from these collections are reported in a range of publications, including AIHW's [housing assistance](#) products and the [Housing Data Dashboard](#), the Productivity Commission's [Report on Government Services](#) and the Council of Australian Governments' [Performance Dashboard](#).

Detailed data can be accessed in the [data tables](#) in the [Housing Assistance in Australia](#) annual report. Customised data can be requested via our [data on request service](#). More detailed information is provided in Attachment 1.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gabrielle Phillips
Head, Housing and Specialised Services Group

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Attachment 1: Relevant information about housing data

Introduction

The AIHW is a national independent statutory agency established in 1987. Its functions are set out in the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*. The AIHW's purpose is to create authoritative and accessible information and statistics that inform decisions and improve the health and welfare of all Australians.

The AIHW also contributes to the development of key performance indicators across a range of health and welfare domains, is a national leader in data linkage activities. The AIHW has a long history of balancing the need for publicly available data, while adhering to strict privacy requirements of data suppliers and the expectations of stakeholders and the general public.

1 AIHW housing datasets

The AIHW collects data for seven housing collections including Public Housing (PH), State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing (SOMIH), Community Housing (CH), Indigenous Community Housing (ICH), Private Rent Assistance (PRA), Home Purchase Assistance (HPA) and the National Social Housing Survey (NSHS). Governments approve the data set specification which outlines data definitions and other data standards through the Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group.

Public Housing and State owned and Managed Indigenous Housing

PH refers to dwellings owned (or leased) and managed by state and territory housing authorities. It is accessed by those on low incomes and/or with special needs. Low income households with a member of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent are also eligible to apply for SOMIH managed by government housing authorities and allocated to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander tenants.

Community Housing

CH is rental housing for low to moderate-income or special-needs households. It is managed by community-based organisations that have received capital or a recurrent subsidy from government. CH models vary across states and territories.

Since 1996–97, the AIHW has compiled CH data from state and territory housing authorities on an annual basis. The CH data collection comprises two types of data:

- Administrative data—unit record level dwelling and CH provider information stored in state and territory information systems.
- Survey data—information provided by CH providers about their organisation, dwellings managed, tenants assisted and the costs associated with providing CH. The survey is undertaken at either an aggregate or unit record (i.e. household) level.

Indigenous Community Housing

ICH dwellings are owned and/or managed by an ICH organisation. These organisations may either directly manage the dwellings they own or sublease tenancy management services to the relevant state/territory housing authority or another organisation. This type of housing is made available to households with at least one Indigenous member. Where a state/territory housing authority is responsible for managing ICH tenancies for Indigenous people, they are considered an ICHO for reporting purposes.

Since 2005–06, the AIHW has compiled ICH data from state and territory housing authorities on an annual basis. These data help to describe the performance of the NHHA. The ICH data collection draws on two types of data:

- Administrative data—unit record level dwelling and ICH provider information stored in state and territory information systems.

- Data collection survey data—information provided by individual ICH providers on their organisation, dwellings managed, households assisted and the costs associated with providing ICH.

Private Rent Assistance

The PRA data collection comprises data that are collected from state and territory governments about assistance provided to households in the form of bond loans, rental grants and subsidies, relocation expenses and other assistance grants.

Since 1997–98, the AIHW has compiled PRA data from states and territories on an annual basis. The PRA data are an administrative by product of the management of the PRA programs run by the states and territories

Home Purchase Assistance

The HPA data collection comprises data held by state and territory governments about assistance provided to households in the form of direct lending (including government loans, shared equity loans and bridging loans), deposit assistance, interest rate assistance, mortgage relief and other assistance grants.

Since 1997–98, the AIHW has compiled HPA data from states and territories on an annual basis. The HPA data are an administrative by product of the management of the HPA programs run by the states and territories.

National Social Housing Survey

The 2018 NSHS is the most recent in a series of surveys of social housing tenants, conducted every 2 years. The primary objective of the NSHS is to gain nationally consistent insights into the experiences of social housing tenants, such as their satisfaction with their home and housing provider, and the benefits they gain from living in social housing. The 2018 NSHS collected information from tenants of 4 social housing programs—PH, CH, SOMIH, and ICH (Queensland only). The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the 2020 survey by one year; the 2021 survey is currently being collected and analysed.

2 The collection and processing of social housing datasets

The PH, SOMIH, PRA and HPA data sets are collected and processing by states and territories and submitted to the AIHW Validata™ system. The Validata™ is a secure web portal that allows states and territories to upload and validate (check for errors) their data prior to submission to the AIHW. Validation results are generated each time a data file is uploaded.

The other social housing data collections, comprising CH and ICH, are collated by state/territory governments using administrative data and information reported directly by housing providers. More recently, AIHW has been assisting CH and ICH organisations with data validation before data is supplied to the state/territory representatives to support improved data quality. The data from the providers is sent to the states and territories to upload and validate the data for submission to the AIHW via Validata™.

AIHW conducts rigorous data quality checks to deliver the robust national housing data.

3 Data Quality Statements

Quality Statements are produced for all collections and are available via AIHW's METeOR; Australia's repository for national metadata standards for health, housing and community services statistics and information. The quality statements provide detailed information on data quality such as accuracy and coherence with the national standard definitions. Quality statements for social housing collections are available at:

- [Public Housing Data Collection, 2019-20](#)
- [State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing Data Collection, 2019-20](#)

- [Community Housing Data Collection, 2019-20](#)
- [Indigenous Community Housing Data Collection, 2019-20](#)
- [Private Rent Assistance Collection, 2019-20](#)
- [Home Purchase Assistance Collection, 2019-20](#)

4 Housing assistance publications

Data collected by the AIHW is published through a number of [housing assistance](#) publications. See:

- [Housing assistance in Australia](#); annual report detailing data for PH, SOMIH, ICH, CH, PRA, HPA and Commonwealth Rent Assistance.
- [National Social Housing Survey](#)

AIHW is the data custodian for the housing collection and supplies data for the [Review of Government Service Provision's Report on government services \(RoGS\)](#) (SCRGSP 2021). AIHW manages this supply on behalf of states and territories. Some additional data is supplied directly by other government sources to the Productivity Commission to supplement the AIHW datasets, for example, expenditure data.

5 Data improvement activities

A key element of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) is the development and implementation of improved, nationally consistent housing data sets, achieved through a nationally agreed Data Improvement Plan (DIP) (CFFR 2018). The AIHW is a key partner in the work program that will deliver improvements to the quality, scope and coverage of housing data.

The CH activities comprise:

- Development of agreed immediate data development and data collection and supply tool priorities for the CH and ICH collections.
- The AIHW will convene a time-limited group comprising HHDWG, National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH), Community Housing industry and Community Housing provider representatives to develop a strategy by 31 December 2021 to align community housing data, audit and reporting requirements with state/territory and national-level funding and regulatory purposes. This strategy will complement action following the Review of the NRSCH and will be developed with the community housing sector.

These activities are underway and Victoria is represented on the groups delivering this work.

References

Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR 2018) [National Housing and Homelessness Agreement Scheduled E](#), Viewed 16 August 2021.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2021, [Report on Government Services 2021](#). Canberra: Productivity Commission.