Data quality information — Sector overview G, Housing and homelessness services

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| Data quality information |
| Data quality information (DQI) provides information against the seven Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data quality framework dimensions, for performance indicators in the Housing and homelessness services sector overview.  Technical DQI has been supplied or agreed by relevant data providers. Additional Steering Committee commentary does not necessarily reflect the views of data providers. |
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## Performance indicators

### Low income households in rental stress

DQI for this indicator has been drafted by the ABS and Secretariat, with additional Steering Committee comments.

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| Indicator definition and description | |
| Element | Outcome |
| Indicator | Proportion of low income households in rental stress |
| Measure (computation) | Numerator: Number of low income households in rental stress  For low income households, computation for numerator:   * Household income is gross household income, excluding Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) * Rental expenses is the amount paid in rent, plus any rates payments made by the tenant, less CRA or other ongoing rental assistance. * Household is included in the numerator if weekly rent payments exceed 30 per cent of household income.   Denominator: Total number of low income rental households, defined as being those households in the bottom two quintiles of equivalised disposable household income (excluding CRA or other rent assistance) calculated separately on a state by state and capital city balance of state basis.  Computation: Number of low income rental households in rental stress x 100, divided by Total number of low income rental households. |
| Data source/s | Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). |
| Data Quality Framework Dimensions | |
| Institutional environment | For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| Relevance | SIH  The SIH collects data on the housing costs and income from usual residents of private dwellings in Australia. Rent payments, rates payments and CRA are separately identified.  While the SIH does collect information on CRA, it does not separately identify other forms of ongoing rent assistance.  The SIH excludes the 0.8 per cent of the Australian population living in very remote areas. This exclusion impacts on comparability of data for the Northern Territory, where these people are around 23 per cent of the population. As a consequence of this exclusion, comparisons between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous people in remote areas are not available.  The 11 290 renter households with nil or negative total income (0.9 per cent of all low income renter households) have been included in the denominator but excluded from the numerator. |
| Timeliness | The biennial SIH is enumerated over a twelve month period to account for seasonal variability in its measures. Results for 2013‑14 were released in September 2015. |
| **Accuracy** | SIH  In 2013‑14, the SIH sample size was decreased from 14,569 households in 2011‑12 to 14 162 households in 2013‑14. The expansion of the 2009‑10 sample for an extra 4200 households located outside capital cities to better support Council of Australian Governments performance reporting was maintained.  The final sample on which estimates were based is composed of persons for which all necessary information is available. The information may have been wholly provided at the interview (fully‑responding) or may have been completed through imputation for partially responding households. Of the selected dwellings, there were 18,249 in the scope of the survey, of which 14,162 (78%) were included as part of the final estimates.  Most of the non‑response was due to householders that were not able to be contacted. To account in part for non‑response, SIH data are weighted by: state, part of state, age, sex, labour force status, number of households and household composition.  At the national level this Performance Indicator for 2013‑14 has a relative standard error (RSE) of 3 per cent. RSEs are higher for state and territory measures, and for other disaggregations. |
| Coherence | The data items used to construct the measures are consistent between cycles within each data source and support assessment of change over time. Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011 has been used throughout the survey for sample selection, weighting and output. At the sub‑state level, this required a break in the time series, with 2013‑14 SIH including Greater Capital City Statistical Area. Previous surveys used the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. |
| Accessibility | The unit record data used to compile this measure are available to other users through the Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURFs) released by ABS. |
| Interpretability | Information is available for both collections to aid interpretation of the data. See the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2013‑14 on the ABS web site. |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/ issues | The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:   * SIH data are only available every two years. An assessment of the relative speed of change in results for this indicator is required to determine whether more regular data collection is necessary. * The size of the RSEs mean that the data may not be adequate for measuring change over time for some disaggregations. Small year to year movements may be difficult to detect if the size of the RSEs is large compared to the size of the difference between estimates. * Low income households in State or Territory housing authority dwellings have access to rebated rents and generally pay no more than 25 per cent of their assessable income in rent. * The measures of low income households in rental stress produced by the SIH are a point in time measure and not designed to measure sustained rental stress. They would not include rent adjustments yet to be made by the state and territory housing authority. |

### Appropriateness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing

#### Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households living in overcrowded conditions

DQI for this indicator has been drafted by the ABS and Secretariat, with additional Steering Committee comments.

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| Indicator definition and description | |  | |
| Outcome: | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have improved housing amenity and reduced overcrowding, particularly in remote areas and discrete communities | | |
| Indicator: | Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households that are living in overcrowded conditions. | | |
| **Measure: (computation)** | The measure is presented as a proportion and is defined as:   * *numerator* — number of overcrowded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households (calculated using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard) * *denominator* — total number of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households for which bedroom requirements and dwelling details are known | | |
| **Data source/s** | Public rental housing and SOMIH  Data sets are provided annually to the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) by jurisdictions. The data contain information about public rental and • State owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) dwellings, households assisted and households on the waitlist, during the previous financial year and as at 30 June, and are drawn from administrative data held by the jurisdictions. The latest data are for the 2013‑14 collection year.  Mainstream community housing  Data are provided annually to AIHW by jurisdictions and are sourced from community housing organisations via a survey and from the jurisdiction’s administrative systems. The annual data collection captures information about community housing organisations, the dwellings and tenancy rental units they manage, households on the waiting list, and the tenants and households assisted. Limited financial information from the previous financial year is also collected.  Indigenous community housing  Data are provided annually to AIHW by jurisdictions and are sourced from administrative data held by jurisdictional funding bodies as well as survey data from Indigenous Community Housing (ICH) Organisations (ICHOs).  The annual data collection captures information about ICHOs, the dwellings they manage and the households assisted at 30 June. Financial information is for the year ending 30 June. The latest data are for the 2012‑14 collection year. | | |
| Data Quality Framework Dimensions | | |  |
| Institutional environment | The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. This Act ensures that the data collections managed by AIHW are kept securely and under strict conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality. More information about the AIHW is available on the AIHW website (www.aihw.gov.au).  The AIHW receives, compiles, edits and verifies 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 AIHW for collation, reporting and analysis. | | |
| Relevance | Public rental housing and SOMIH  The data collected are an administrative by‑product of the management of public rental housing and SOMIH programs run by the jurisdictions and conform well in terms of scope, coverage and reference period.  Mainstream community housing  Community housing dwellings include all tenancy (rental) units under management of a community housing organisation (excluding dwellings managed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community housing organisations, State Housing Authorities or Specialist Homelessness Service agencies). Additional jurisdiction‑specific inclusions and exclusions also apply.  The data collected by the jurisdictions conform well in terms of reference period; however, due to the jurisdiction‑specific inclusions and exclusions, the data does not conform well in terms of organisation coverage and reporting.  Not all data items required are available for all households. Only households with complete information have been included in the calculation.  Indigenous Community Housing  The ICH data collection contains information about ICHOs, the dwellings they manage and the households assisted. An ICHO is any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation responsible for managing medium to long term housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes community organisations such as resource agencies and land councils, which have a range of functions, provided that they manage housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and  There were no in‑scope ICHOs reported within the Australian Capital Territory within 2014‑15. | | |
| Timeliness | Public rental housing, SOMIH and mainstream community housing  Data are collected annually. The reference period for this indicator is 30 June 2014 for public rental housing, SOMIH and mainstream community housing.  Indigenous Community Housing  The reference period for this collection is the 2012‑13 financial year and is mostly a 30 June 2013 snapshot, but also captures 2011‑12 household activity. The most recent data available are for 2011‑12. | | |
| Accuracy | There are some accuracy issues with the data collected. The agreed methodology for determining overcrowding requires the age, sex and relationship status of all tenants within a household to be known, as well as the number of bedrooms within the dwelling. Only households with complete information available are included in the calculation of the indicator.  Public rental housing and SOMIH  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 data items required are available for all households, in particular multiple‑family households. In these cases, the single/couple status of household members may be derived based on information that is available including household composition and age. Only households with complete information have been included in the calculation. | | |

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|  | | Public rental housing exclusions   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | | Total ongoing households | 108 732 | 63 125 | 50 371 | 32 602 | 37 766 | 7 109 | 10 611 | 4 647 | | **Excludes:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Households for which bedroom or required bedroom details unknown | 1 534 | 3 515 | – | – | 314 | 2 | 789 | 56 | | **Exclusions as a % of total ongoing households** | **1.4** | **5.6** | **–** | **–** | **0.8** | **–** | **7.4** | **1.2** | | |  |
|  | | SOMIH exclusions   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Qld | SA | Tas | | Total ongoing households | 4 550 | 3 242 | 1 741 | 219 | | **Excludes:** |  |  |  |  | | Households for which bedroom or required bedroom details unknown | 122 | – | 59 | – | | **Exclusions as a % of total ongoing households** | **2.7** | **–** | **3.4** | **–** |   – Nil or rounded to zero. | |  |
|  | | | State/Territory specific issues:  Victoria   * Victoria records individuals who live in more than one household, in both households (this may occur where care of dependants is shared between parents). This may result in an some duplication in the reported number of overcrowded households.   Mainstream community housing  Data are incomplete for some jurisdictions due to non‑reporting or under reporting by community housing organisations. The information was sourced via a survey of community housing organisations conducted by state/territory housing authorities and/or from administrative records held by them. | |
|  | Community housing exclusions   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ongoing households | 2 448 | 492 | na | 741 | 187 | 100 | 26 | na | 5 088 | | **Excludes:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households for which household and tenancy details unknown | 5 | 46 | na | 26 | 10 | 8 | – | na | 95 | | Exclusions (%) | ***0.2*** | ***9.3*** | ***na*** | ***3.5*** | ***5.3*** | ***8.0*** | ***–*** | ***na*** | ***1.9*** | | | |  |

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|  | Indigenous community housing  Overcrowding could not be determined for all households due to incomplete coverage of ICHOs and some household records not containing all the data required in this calculation.  Data were not available for New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory. Due to poor coverage, a national value is not provided.  Since 2011‑12, the ICH data collection includes dwellings in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia that were owned by ICHOs where tenancy management services were provided by the state/territory housing authority. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in SA, data is only reported for tenancies managed by the state housing authority and not those managed by ICHOs.  Completeness coverage:  Jurisdictions where coverage of the data for this indicator was less than 95 per cent are:   * Victoria: 72 per cent. | |
| 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.  Public rental housing, SOMIH, mainstream community housing, and Indigenous Community  From 2009‑10, the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS) has been used to calculate bedroom requirements. Prior to this the Proxy Occupancy Standard was used.  The use of the CNOS and change to the definition of overcrowding as households requiring one bedroom or more in 2009‑10 has resulted in an increase to the estimation of overcrowding.  The use of the CNOS and change to a definition of underutilisation as households having one or more bedrooms in addition to requirements in 2009‑10 resulted in an increase to the estimation of underutilisation.  Change in the definition of underutilisation from having one or more bedrooms in addition to CNOS requirements to having two or more bedrooms in addition to CNOS requirements, implemented in 2011‑12, means that underutilisation measures are not comparable over time.  Mainstream community housing  Data for individual jurisdictions may not be comparable across reporting periods, or with other social housing sectors due to variability in the state and territory government programs reported in the community housing data collection, coverage and completeness rates and other data quality issues.  State/Territory specific issues:  New South Wales:   * Data from 2012‑13 and earlier reporting periods may not be comparable due to a change in reporting methods. Previously an organisation aggregated unit record data and provided the aggregated figures to the State Housing Authority. From 2013‑14 onwards, community housing organisations provide unit record data. Over time this will result in improved data quality.   Indigenous community housing  From 2009‑10, overcrowding was only calculated for households assisted by ICHOs that received funding within the financial year, rather than both funded and unfunded ICHOs (as per earlier years).  Data for individual jurisdictions may not be comparable over time due to differences in the accuracy of individual annual data sets e.g. reflecting differences in how the data for the collection was sourced by jurisdictions, the number and profiles of ICHOs for which data was provided/not provided, the completeness of the data reported for some ICHOs and the instances of unknown values recorded for some data items. There have been a variety of different data quality issues each year. These issues are documented in the data quality statements reported in the relevant edition of this report.  State/Territory specific issues:  Victoria   * From 2009‑10 both Aboriginal Housing Victoria and ICHO activity are reported. For the two years prior to 2009‑10, Victoria reported Aboriginal Housing Victoria activity only.   Queensland   * From 2012‑13, missing household records are no longer imputed. Prior to 2012‑13, this data was imputed based on the assumption that there was one household living in each permanent dwelling. Discontinuation of imputation has contributed to a decrease in the number of overcrowded households.   Western Australia   * For 2012‑13, where only partial information was available, WA imputed the remaining information. This change in methodology contributed to increase in the number of households included in the calculation of overcrowding and may have contributed to decrease in the rate of overcrowding since 2011‑12. | |
| Accessibility | Annual data will be reported in Housing Assistance in Australia, which will be available publically on the AIHW website. Additional disaggregations are available on application and subject to jurisdiction approval. | |
| Interpretability | Metadata and definitions relating to this data source can be found in the National Housing Assistance Data Dictionary (AIHW Cat no. HOU147) (http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/236882).  Supplementary information can be found in the housing collection data manuals which are available upon request from AIHW. | |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |  |
| Key data gaps/ issues | The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:  Public housing, SOMIH, community housing, and Indigenous community housing:   * Only three jurisdictions reported the data required to calculate overcrowding rates. * The data presented may not accurately represent the characteristics of the sector, particularly due to coverage issues. * Other published measures of overcrowding for Indigenous community housing define overcrowding as households requiring two or more bedrooms, rather than one as specified in the CNOS. * In Queensland, since 2012‑13, 19 ICH providers were counted as community housing providers. However, for the next reporting period, these providers will be counted as ICH providers. | |

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households living in dwellings of an acceptable standard

##### National Social Housing Survey

DQI for this indicator has been drafted by AIHW, with additional Steering Committee comments.

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| Indicator definition and description | |
| Element | Outcome |
| Indicator | Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households living in dwellings of an acceptable standard |
| Measure (computation) | Numerator: number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households who indicated that their dwelling has at least 4 facilities and that they are working and did not indicate that they had more than two major structural problems.  Denominator: number of tenants who gave a valid answer to the facilities and structural problems question and who answered the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status question multiplied by 100. |
| Data source/s | AIHW  A contracted data collection organisation was engaged by AIHW to conduct the 2014 National Social Housing Survey (NSHS). Data were collected via postal and online (self‑completion) questionnaires from a randomly selected sample of SOMIH (South Australia and Tasmania), Public Housing and Community Housing tenants. In 2014, SOMIH tenants in New South Wales and Queensland completed the survey by face to face interview. For each social housing program (public housing, SOMIH and community housing) the tenants completing the questionnaires were from all jurisdictions which operated the relevant social housing program. |
| Data Quality Framework Dimensions | |
| Institutional environment | The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. This Act ensures that the data collections managed by AIHW are kept securely and under strict conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality. More information about AIHW is available on the AIHW website (www.aihw.gov.au).  The AIHW receives, compiles, edits and verifies 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 AIHW for collation, reporting and analysis. |
| Relevance | The 2014 NSHS includes tenants from public housing, community housing and state owned and managed Indigenous housing. The ICH sector was excluded from the survey. All states and territories participated in the survey if the relevant program was operated in their jurisdiction. All remoteness areas were included in the sample. For the postal component of the survey, the speed of delivery to, and returns from, more remote locations may have affected the number of responses received from tenants in these areas. |
| Timeliness | Data are not collected annually. Surveys for public housing and community housing were conducted in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010 2012, and 2014. Surveys for SOMIH were conducted in 2005, 2007, 2012, and 2014. For SOMIH tenants in 2014, surveys were completed via mail‑out for two jurisdictions (South Australia and Tasmania) and face‑to‑face interview in the other two jurisdictions (New South Wales and Queensland).  The fieldwork for 2014 was conducted from 6 May–22 July for the ACT. For all other jurisdictions, fieldwork was conducted from 14 May–14 August 2014.  Fieldwork for the SOMIH face‑to‑face component was undertaken in NSW from the 19 May‑5 June 2014 and in QLD from 3 June‑2 July 2014. |

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|  | | Data on the characteristics of the household and its member relate to the time of the survey. Data on tenant satisfaction relate to the 12 months up to the time of the survey. | |
| Accuracy | | Missing data  Some survey respondents did not answer all questions, either because they were unable or unwilling to provide a response. The survey responses for these people were retained in the sample, and the missing values were recorded as not answered. No attempt was made to deduce or impute these missing values. A considerable proportion of tenants did not answer the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status question: 20.1 per cent of public housing tenants, 0.9 per cent of SOMIH tenants and 20.2 per cent of community tenants did not provide a response.  Response rates and contact rates  The accuracy of the outputs from the 2014 NSHS are affected by the response rates across the jurisdictions and at the National level (see response rate table below).  Overall, 42 827 questionnaires were sent to tenants in public housing, community housing and SOMIH (South Australia and Tasmania only), of which 12 594 questionnaires were categorised as being complete and useable, representing a response rate for the 2014 survey of 32.4 per cent; considerably higher than the 2012 survey of 16.3 per cent.  For the two SOMIH jurisdictions where the respondents completed the survey face‑to‑face (New South Wales and Queensland), a total of 1581 interviews were attempted and 1001 interviews were completed with an overall response rate of 63.3 per cent.  A low response rate does not necessarily mean that the results are biased. If the non‑respondents are not systematically different in terms of how they would have answered the questions, there may be no bias, either in comparisons across jurisdictions or over time. Given the relatively low response rates for this survey, it is likely there is some bias in the estimates. | |
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|  | | Scope and coverage  For the 2014 NSHS, caution should be used when comparing trend data or data between jurisdictions due to differences in response rates and non‑sampling error.  The 2014 NSHS sampling and stratification methods were similar to the 2012 survey i.e. sample was randomly selected of each jurisdiction’s public housing, SOMIH and community housing tenants. As requested by NSW stratified sampling by region/area was undertaken for NSW public housing tenancies.  The 2014 NSHS was designed to meet minimum reliability objectives for key variables for each housing program.  Sample design  Simple random sampling was undertaken for all housing programs except for NSW public housing in which stratified sampling was undertaken in order to obtain minimum sample size requirements for each area. | |

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|  | | To produce reliable estimates, minimum sample sizes were set for each housing program. An additional overall 5350 booster sample was included: NSW public housing (4000) NSW community housing (750) and WA public housing (600).  The over‑sampling of lesser populated states and territories produced a sample that was not proportional to the jurisdiction/housing programs distribution of the social housing population. Weighting was applied to adjust for imbalances arising from execution of the sampling and differential response rates, and to ensure that the results relate to the social housing population.  The weighting for the 2014 survey was calculated as the number of households in each jurisdiction (population) divided by the number of usable surveys (responses). All population counts were provided by AIHW.  No completed survey was received from VIC PH ARIA 3, SA PH ARIA 4, TAS PH ARIA 4, NT PH ARIA 4 and SA CH ARIA 4. These areas are excluded from weighting.  Sampling error  The measure used to indicate reliability of individual estimates reported in 2014 was the RSE. Only estimates with RSEs of less than 25 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Results subject to RSEs of between 25 per cent and 50 per cent should be considered with caution and those with relative standard errors greater than 50 per cent should be considered as unreliable for most practical purposes.  Non‑sampling error  In addition to sampling errors, the estimates are subject to non‑sampling errors. These can arise from errors in reporting of responses (for example, failure of respondents’ memories, incorrect completion of the survey form), the unwillingness of respondents to reveal their true responses and the higher levels of non‑response from certain subgroups of the population.  The survey findings are based on self‑reported data. |
| Coherence | | In 2014, the data collected for SOMIH was sourced using two methodologies (via mail‑out in two jurisdictions and via face‑to‑face interview in two jurisdictions).  Comparisons between data across jurisdictions should be undertaken with caution due to differences in response rates and non‑sampling error.  Surveys in this series commenced in 2001. Over time, modifications have been made to the survey’s methodology and questionnaire design. As noted above, the sample design and the questionnaire of the 2014 survey differs in a number of important respects from previous versions of the survey. Please refer to data quality statements and technical reports for the relevant surveys before comparing data across surveys. |
| Accessibility | | Published results from the 2014 NSHS will be available on the AIHW website, see National Social Housing Survey 2014: national report. Access to the confidentialised unit record file may be requested through the AIHW Ethics Committee. |
| Interpretability | | Information to aid in interpretation of 2014 NSHS results will be made available on the AIHW website including the 2014 NSHS Technical Report, code book and other supporting documentation. |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | | |
| Key data gaps/ issues | The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:   * Caution should be used when comparing data across or between jurisdictions as data are collected via survey vehicles and are subject to sampling and non‑sampling error. * Survey weights are applied to the data when calculating outputs and performance indicators. * The SOMIH component of the survey in 2014 was conducted using a mixed methodology with two jurisdictions using face to face interviews (NSW and Queensland) and the other two jurisdictions collecting data via a mail‑out survey (the same as the public housing and community housing components). * Response rates from the NSHS for public housing, SOMIH and community housing provide a general indication of data accuracy and reliability. Response rates for the 2014 NSHS were 32.4 per cent for the mail‑out component and 63.3 per cent for the face–to‑ face component. | |

##### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households living in dwellings of an acceptable standard — Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012‑13

DQI for this indicator has been drafted by the ABS, with additional Steering Committee comments.

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| Indicator definition and description | |
| Element | Outcome |
| Indicator | Dwelling condition, Indigenous community housing. |
| Measure (computation) | Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households with at least four working facilities and not more than two major structural problems, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households who are renting with a landlord type of Indigenous Housing Organisation or Community Housing. |
| Data source/s | ABS  The numerator and denominator use data from the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) component of the 2012‑13 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) from a sample of 5,371 households. The household weights for this survey were derived from the person level benchmarks. The person level benchmarks were based on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander estimated resident population at 30 June 2011.  For more information on the structure of the AATSIHS, see Structure of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (cat. no. 4727.0.55.001) on the ABS website. For information on scope and coverage, see the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide, 2012-13 (cat. no. 4727.0.55.002). |
| Data Quality Framework Dimensions | |
| Institutional environment | The AATSIHS was collected, processed, and published by the ABS. The ABS operates within a framework of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975. These ensure the independence and impartiality from political influence of the ABS, and the confidentiality of respondents.  For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment on the ABS website. |
| Relevance | The AATSIHS is a national survey that collected information on health status, risk factors and health‑related actions.  The 2012‑13 NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS asked a responsible adult within each household whether the household dwelling had any of the following major structural problems/problems that needed to be fixed: rising damp; major cracks in walls/floors; sinking/moving foundations; sagging floors; walls or windows that aren’t straight; wood rot/termite damage; major electrical problems; major plumbing problems; major roof defects; other major structural problems/other big problems. They were also asked if any of the following facilities were missing from the household or weren’t working: stove/oven/other cooking facilities; fridge; toilet; bath or shower; washing machine; kitchen sink; laundry tub. Each respondent was also asked whether the dwelling was: being paid off; owned outright; being rented; being purchased under a rent/buy or shared equity scheme; being occupied under a life tenure scheme; occupied rent free. Those who reported the tenure type was rental (including those purchasing the dwelling under a rent/buy or shared equity scheme) were also asked who rent was paid to. Indigenous Housing Organisation/Community housing was a response category for this question. |
| Timeliness | The AATSIHS is conducted approximately every six years over a 12‑month period. Results from the 2012‑13 NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS were released in November 2013. The previous NATSIHS was conducted in 2004‑05. |
| Accuracy | The AATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non‑private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short‑stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate for the 2012‑13 NATSIHS component was 80.2%. Results are weighted to account for non‑response.  As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates should be considered with reference to their RSE. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use. |
| Coherence | Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households come from the NATSIHS component of the 2012‑13 AATSIHS. Measures based on the 2012‑13 NATSIHS are consistent with those supplied for Council of Australian Governments reporting from the ABS 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys. The 2012‑13 NATSIHS collected other information that can be analysed in conjunction with dwelling condition. |
| Accessibility | See Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results, 2012-13 (cat. no. 4727.0.55.001) for an overview of results from the NATSIHS component of the AATSIHS. Other information is available by request or by applying and paying subscription for access to the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey. Detailed conditions and other health data, 2012-13 Microdata products (cat. No. 4715.0.30.001). |
| Interpretability | Information to aid interpretation of the data is available from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Users’ Guide, 2012-13 on the ABS website. |

### Australians who are homeless

DQI for this indicator has been drafted by the ABS and Secretariat, with additional Steering Committee comments.

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| Indicator definition and description | |
| Element | Outcome |
| Indicator | Proportion of Australians who are homeless |
| Measure (computation) | The proportion of Australians who are homeless (as defined by the ABS)  The measure is defined as:   * Numerator ‑ Number of Australians who are homeless * Denominator – number of Australians   and is presented as a *proportion*. |
| Data source/s | Numerator and denominator — Census of Population and Housing. Data  are available every five years. |
| Data Quality Framework Dimensions | |
| Institutional environment | For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment. |
| Relevance | A quality prevalence measure of homelessness that can be used to track changes over time allows society to both judge some aspects of the scale of the problem and hold itself and governments accountable for some outcomes at this broad level. To target prevention, or amelioration of the circumstances of homelessness, and measure progress, the locations of the homeless and their characteristics are required.  With homelessness having a prevalence of just 0.5 per cent, and with less than half of the people experiencing homelessness approaching a formal service for assistance, there are few data sources which can report on prevalence. Only the ABS Census of Population and Housing can support the estimation of the prevalence of homelessness.  Use of the Census in estimating homelessness provides cross classification by homeless operational groups and by the range of personal characteristics which are available. This allows the homeless population to be compared to the whole population as well as to other populations who may be marginally housed and whose living arrangements are close to the statistical boundary of homelessness or who may be at risk of homelessness. |
| Timeliness | Official homelessness estimates from the Census are available every five years, within 14 days of the publication of second release Census variables. The 2011 official homelessness estimates were released on 12 November 2012. |
| Accuracy | Official ABS estimates of the prevalence of homelessness use a methodology which is transparent, consistent and repeatable, and suitable for measuring change over time.  While ‘homelessness’ itself is not a characteristic that is directly measured in the Census, estimates are derived from the Census using analytical techniques, based on both the characteristics observed in the Census and assumptions about the way people may respond to Census questions.  The Census is likely to under‑enumerate some homeless groups such as homeless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and so called ‘rough sleepers’. Official ABS estimates of the prevalence of homelessness will reflect any such under-enumeration. In addition, due to the way that people may respond to the Census, official ABS estimates of homelessness are likely to underestimate the level of homelessness for both youth and people displaced due to domestic and family violence. However, trends are not expected to be affected by this level error.  ABS has developed a range of strategies for each Census aimed at maximising the enumeration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and those who may be ‘sleeping rough’. |
| Coherence | The ABS uses a consistent, transparent and repeatable methodology for estimating the number of people enumerated in the Census of Population and Housing who may be homeless on Census night. More details on the methodology can be found in the publication: Information Paper - Methodology for Estimating Homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 2049.0.55.001). The homelessness estimates can be compared to estimates for both the general population and for those in marginal housing at the boundary with homelessness.  Other collections which inform on other aspects of homelessness, such as the incidence of homelessness and people’s past experiences of homelessness, include the ABS General Social Survey and the AIHW Special Homelessness Services collection. Care should be taken when comparing homelessness data from different sources due to the different collection methodologies and the different scope of the collections. |
| Accessibility | In addition to published estimates in Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness (cat. no. 2049.0), other homelessness results from the Census are available from the ABS on request. Please contact the ABS on (02) 6252 6174 or living.conditions@abs.gov.au for more information. |
| Interpretability | Official estimates of homelessness are published in Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness (cat. no. 2049.0).  Back ground information on the methodology used to estimate homelessness can be found in Information Paper - Methodology for Estimating Homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 2049.0.55.001). |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/ issues | The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:   * The Steering Committee recommends that potential alternative data sources for reporting against this indicator continue to be investigated for years where Census data are not available. * A new national Specialist Homelessness Services data collection commenced on 1 July 2011. The data collection will expand the scope, type of information collected and provide more timely information of those people who are provided with specialist homelessness services, which may provide a proxy measure for this indicator. * There are currently no adequate counts of people experiencing homelessness who access mainstream services. However, the inclusion of homelessness flags in mainstream data sets is being explored, and there is a commitment to develop a common definition and standards for adoption in agency specific mainstream services datasets. |