HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS DATA IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2019-2023

Preliminaries

E1.   This schedule outlines the Housing and Homelessness Data Improvement Plan (the Plan) developed by the Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group (HHDWG), as prescribed in Schedule C of this Agreement, and constitutes an output of this Agreement, per sub-clause 17(d).

E2.   The schedule summarises the data improvements, timelines and responsible parties for agreed data improvements.

E3.   For the avoidance of doubt, the Commonwealth's estimated financial contributions to the States and Territories will not be reduced if the agreed outcomes set out in E6 are not achieved within the funding committed under E5.

E4.   The HHDWG will provide annual reports to the Housing and Homelessness Senior Officials' Network, Heads of Treasuries Deputies, and Housing and Homelessness Ministers on progress towards implementing the data improvement activities outlined in the table below, as well as a final report. Schedule C sets out the timeframes for these reports.

E5.   The Commonwealth Government has committed $4.8 million to data improvement activities in this schedule. Each State and Territory Government will collectively match, at a minimum, the Commonwealth contribution, based on population. Overall, there will be a fixed contribution to the pooled fund of $9.6 million.

E6.   In the period up to 30 June 2023, the Commonwealth and States and Territories will undertake the following actions towards continuous improvement of housing and homelessness data under this Agreement.

Agreed data improvements

NHHA Indicator	Agreed outcome
NHHA indicator (a) the total number of dwellings relative to the population	From 1 July 2018, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will explore the collection of additional data on dwelling demolitions and completions in order to comprehensively measure and classify total dwelling stock in Australia, in between each 5-yearly Census of Population and Housing. Stock measures will be available at low levels of geography (LGA/SA2) and classified according to relevant dwelling characteristics.
NHHA indicator (d) an increase in the proportion of social housing occupants that are housed in homes that match their needs	From 1 July 2020, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) will lead research and engage policy stakeholders to establish a working group to review the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS) measure to ensure its relevance and accuracy in depicting utilisation

	especially for particular groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and potentially people who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD). The research will also consider new stress measures of overcrowding relevant to Indigenous households and Closing the Gap.
NHHA indicator (g) a decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness	From 1 July 2019, the ABS will lead improvements in the enumeration, processing and estimation of homelessness, as part of the broader 2021 Census enhancements. The ABS in consultation with all jurisdictions, the AIHW, homelessness peak bodies and service providers will improve the quality of supported accommodation information. Measurement to commence in the 2021 Census, with homelessness estimates to be released in late 2022. The HHDWG will determine the value and relative priority in measuring the prevalence of homelessness more frequently, outside of the Census.
NHHA indicator (h) a decrease in the number of people that experience repeat homelessness (j) an increase in the proportion of people who are homeless that are assisted to achieve housing	From 1 July 2020, the AIHW will lead changes to the repeat homelessness indicator using longitudinal data. The AIHW will lead improvements to data items to more closely align the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) definitions of homelessness and at-risk, with the ABS definitions. From 1 July 2022, the HHDWG will assess the feasibility of expanding the measurement of repeat homelessness beyond the SHSC.
NHHA indicator (i) an increase in the proportion of people who are at risk of homelessness that receive assistance to avoid homelessness	From commencement of this Schedule, the AIHW will lead the development of a nationally agreed measure of the proportion of people who are at risk of homelessness that receive assistance to avoid homelessness, drawing on data from the SHSC. The AIHW will implement agreed improvements to the definition of at risk of homelessness in the SHSC. From 1 July 2022, the AIHW will consult jurisdictions to assess the feasibility of developing a new whole-of-population measure for people at risk of homelessness.
NHHA indicator (k) an increase in the number of dwellings that are permitted by zoning in cities or urban areas i. the measurement of this indicator will be considered as part of the operation of the HHDWG (established	In the last quarter of 2020, the ABS will release a research paper on methodologies to estimate the number of dwellings that are permitted by zoning in cities or urban areas for the HHDWG's consideration.

by Schedule C), with measurement to commence from 1 July 2021 subject to the development of a reliable measure	
NHHA indicator (m) a decrease in the proportion of rental households with household income in the bottom two quintiles that spend more than 30 per cent of their income on rent	In July 2019, the ABS released new rental stress data from the Survey of Income and Housing (2017-18) with improvements in accuracy and consistency for national performance reporting. Ongoing improvements in rental stress data for NHHA indicator (m) will take place with future Surveys of Income and Housing.
Other – improve collection of community housing data	From commencement of this Schedule, the HHDWG will develop agreed immediate data development and data collection and supply tool priorities for the Community Housing and Indigenous Community Housing collections. From 1 July 2020, 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.
Other – Data Improvement Plan 2023-2028	By the second quarter of 2023, the HHDWG or subsequent working group will develop recommendations for activities to include in a new Data Improvement Plan for the period 2023-2028.

Term of the Schedule

E7.   Unless terminated earlier as agreed in writing by the relevant Parties, this schedule will be replaced / revised with a work plan for the following five years.