

Our Ref: MN03300-2020
Your Ref: MS20-00712

16 NOV 2020



**Queensland
Government**

Department of
Housing and Public Works

The Honourable Luke Howarth MP
Assistant Minister for Community Housing,
Homelessness and Community Services
luke.howarth.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Assistant Minister Howarth

I refer to your letter of 21 September 2020 to the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport regarding Queensland's National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) Statement of Assurance (SoA) within the agreed extended timeframe of 30 November 2020.

I understand a letter dated 5 October 2020 from the Minister advised that the SoA from the Department of Housing and Public Works would be delayed due to the Queensland State Election.

Tables 1-3 below fulfil the requirements of the NHHA and demonstrate that Queensland exceeds the matched funding requirements.

It should be noted that financials within Queensland's SoA are unlikely to be consistent with the Report on Government Services due to the differing processes and timeframes involved, or comparable with other States and Territories as collaboration has not been facilitated.

The Queensland Government remains committed to engaging productively to achieve greater national consistency in future years and would welcome engagement on this matter from the Australian Government.

Overall expenditure on housing and homelessness increased by \$114.1 million from 2018-19, however was \$19.0 million less than the budget projected in last year's SoA, primarily due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and rephasing of construction.

Table 1. Requirements of Clause 37(a) of the NHHA

2019-20 Expenditure (\$M)	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Housing	242.8	201.7	444.5
Homelessness			
Operational	77.5	131.8	209.3
Reform	0.0	7.9	7.9
Capital	0.0	12.6	12.6
Total Homelessness	77.5	152.2	229.8
COVID-19 responses	0.0	26.1	26.1
GRAND TOTAL	320.3	380.1	700.4

Table 2. Requirements of Clause 37(a) i) of the NHHA

2019–20 Expenditure (\$M)	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Women and children affected by family and domestic violence	20.5	38.7	59.2
Children and young people	30.8	42.4	73.2
Indigenous Australians	22.9	33.7	56.6
People experiencing repeat homelessness	2.2	2.9	5.1
People exiting institutions and care into homelessness	17.3	31.2	48.4
Older people	3.9	5.4	9.3

The approach to disaggregation is identical to the methodology applied in 2018-19. Client proportions from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services Collection annual report 2019–20 were applied to the total expenditure for Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS). Expenditure from non-SHS homelessness responses was wholly allocated to the most relevant national homelessness priority cohort.

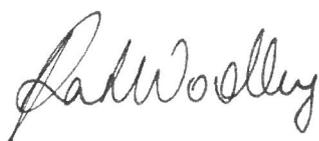
These figures do not equate to 100 per cent of total homelessness expenditure as some initiatives are not focused on a specific cohort and there is overlap between cohorts.

Table 3. Requirements of Clause 37(b) of the NHHA.

Clause 37(b) of the NHHA requires housing and homelessness budgets for the following financial year. Due to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Queensland Budget for 2020-21 has not yet been delivered and the figures in Table 3 are therefore indicative only.

<i>Indicative 2020–21 Budget (\$M)</i>	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Housing	247.5	338.6	586.1
Homelessness			
Operational	80.3	135.4	215.7
Reform	0.0	5.3	5.3
Capital	0.0	23.5	23.5
Total homelessness	80.3	164.2	244.5
COVID-19 deferral from 2019-20 and repurposed funds	0.0	4.5	4.5
GRAND TOTAL	327.8	507.3	835.1

Yours sincerely



Trish Woolley
Acting Director-General