



Minister for Housing and Public Works  
Minister for Digital Technology  
Minister for Sport

Our Ref: HS 02440-2019  
Your Ref: MS19-001148

04 NOV 2019

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

Dear Assistant Minister

*Luke*

Thank you for your letter received on 11 October 2019 regarding Queensland's first annual Statement of Assurance under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA).

I am pleased to confirm that Queensland has satisfied the funding requirements of the NHHA for 2018–19 including having agreed a bilateral schedule with the Australian Government, having made publicly available its housing and homelessness strategies, publishing a report on the initiatives in the bilateral schedule, contributing to ongoing collection and transparent reporting of data and matching Commonwealth homelessness funding, including homelessness funding for the Social and Community Services Award.

As per the requirements of Clause 37(a) of the NHHA, Table 1 below articulates the actual Commonwealth funding and expenditure separately identified for housing and homelessness and state-own funding and expenditure in respect of the social housing and homelessness sectors for the 2018–19 financial year. This excludes expenditure on remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing.

These figures may not be directly comparable with other states and territories in relation to attribution of funding to housing and homelessness as the NHHA does not define what on the continuum of responses constitutes a housing or homelessness response.

Table 2 disaggregates actual homelessness expenditure to separately identify each of the national priority homelessness cohorts as required in Clause 37(a) i). As some initiatives are not focused on a specific cohort and due to the overlap between cohorts, these figures do not add up to 100 per cent of total homelessness expenditure.

The approach to disaggregation took the total expenditure for Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) and estimated its allocation to the national homelessness priority cohorts by applying the client proportions from the latest available Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services Collection annual report (2017–18) for the following groups: women and children affected by family and domestic violence; children and young people; Indigenous Australians; people experiencing repeat homelessness; people exiting institutions and care into homelessness and older people. Expenditure from non-SHS homelessness responses was wholly allocated to the most relevant national homelessness priority cohort.

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland  
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +617 3719 7270  
E: hpwdts@ministerial.qld.gov.au

I also note jurisdictions have taken different approaches to reporting the national homelessness priority cohorts and these will also not be directly comparable with other states and territories.

Table 3 fulfils the requirements of Clause 37(b) by providing estimated Commonwealth funding and expenditure separately identified for housing and homelessness and estimated state-own funding and expenditure in respect of the social housing and homelessness sectors for the 2019–20 financial year.

Table 1. Housing and homelessness expenditure for 2018–19

2018–19 Expenditure (\$M)	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Housing	239.1	148.5	387.6
Homelessness			
Operational	74.0	106.5	
Reform	1.1	5.7	
Capital	-	11.5	
Total Homelessness	75.1	123.7	198.7
GRAND TOTAL	314.1	272.2	586.3

Table 2. Disaggregation of homelessness expenditure for 2018–19 by national priority cohort

2018–19 Expenditure (\$M)	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Women and children affected by family and domestic violence	19.8	29.2	49.1
Children and young people	30.9	31.9	62.8
Indigenous Australians	21.8	25.8	47.7
People experiencing repeat homelessness	2.3	2.4	4.7
People exiting institutions and care into homelessness	15.8	28.2	44.0
Older people	3.6	3.8	7.4

Table 3. Housing and homelessness budget for 2019–20

2019–20 Budget (\$M)	Commonwealth	State	TOTAL
Housing	242.2	237.5	479.7
Homelessness			
Operational	76.5	124.2	200.7
Reform	1.1	5.5	6.6
Capital	-	32.4	32.4
Total homelessness	77.5	162.2	239.7
GRAND TOTAL	319.8	399.7	719.5

I note your letter requests that Queensland provide state-own expenditure on social housing disaggregated by maintenance, new capital and program expenditure for both public housing and Indigenous housing as part of the minimum level of information expected by the Australian Government under the NHHA.

In our view, this request is not consistent with the NHHA's agreed reporting framework. I understand Queensland officials have contacted Australian Government officials and have not been able to resolve this issue. Queensland has therefore followed the reporting arrangements agreed as part of the NHHA. I am advised that this approach is broadly consistent with that taken by most other states and territories.

Queensland is willing to work in partnership with the Australian Government and our state and territory counterparts to share information informally outside of the NHHA reporting framework, where it improves the evidence base for policy making and the efficient and effective administration of the NHHA. Queensland does not agree to additional reporting requirements being attached to the NHHA. In relation to housing expenditure information, I draw your attention to the publication of the Department of Housing and Public Works' Annual Report which includes detailed financial statements.

While a Data Improvement Plan (DIP) was to be agreed by 30 June 2019, I appreciate confirmation from Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services and Manager of Government Business in the Senate on 1 July 2019 that NHHA funding will continue to flow while discussions continue.

I understand the Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group (HHDWG), which is chaired by the Commonwealth and is responsible for developing the DIP, was not convened between 27 March 2019 and 2 October 2019, resulting in development of the DIP being delayed. Queensland remains committed to the work of the HHDWG and looks forward to finalising a suite of data improvements that can be delivered within the existing data improvement budgets of the Commonwealth, states and territories.

If I can help with other matters within my portfolio, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7270.

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP  
**Minister for Housing and Public Works**  
**Minister for Digital Technology**  
**Minister for Sport**