

Statement of Assurance reporting template – National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) 2019-20

Purpose of this reporting template

This 2019-20 Statement of Assurance (SoA) reporting template contributes to achieving stated outcomes under the NHHA, including the following clauses:

- 15(f) Improved transparency and accountability in respect of housing and homelessness strategies, spending and outcomes.
- 23(b) Commonwealth monitoring and assessing performance under this Agreement to ensure that the outputs are delivered within agreed timeframes;
- 25(c) States providing evidence of the delivery of outputs as set out in Part 4 – Performance Monitoring and Reporting.

Counting rules:

Counting methodologies where applicable to be consistent with input you would provide for the *Report on Government Services* for housing expenditure and homelessness expenditure. This includes:

- Grants and subsidies are excluded from public housing and SOMIH expenditure data but are included in data for capital expenditure on social housing.
- Expenditure under the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing or any subsequent remote housing agreement are included or excluded for each state as would be consistent with that state's reporting for table 18A.1 of the *Report on Government Services*.
- Expenditure for individual housing programs and initiatives are included or excluded for each state as would be consistent with that state's reporting for table 18A.1 of the *Report on Government Services*.

All social housing expenditure includes expenditure on public housing, SOMIH, community housing, Indigenous community housing, transitional housing and grants to community housing. Expenditure for SHS agencies, other homelessness services and home purchase assistance is excluded from this line.

Requirement	Evidence			Key changes/ reasons for variation between allocated and actual expenditure in 2019-20
2019-20 funding and expenditure	State-own forecast expenditure (excluding NHHA) for 2019-20	State-own actual expenditure (excluding NHHA) in 2019-20	NHHA funds spent in 2019-20	
Clause 37(a) – Actual Commonwealth and state-own funding and expenditure in respect of the social housing and homelessness sectors for financial year 2019-20				
Housing total	\$367.7 million	\$373.1 million	\$3.1 million	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Housing ACT's expenditure was higher than forecasted. The ACT's 2019-20 NHHA funding was \$26.4 million, therefore after homelessness expenditure of \$23.3 million, \$3.1 million remained for social housing.
Public housing (total including maintenance)	N/A	\$139.6 million	The ACT Government is unable to provide a specific breakdown of NHHA funding as our financial systems and administrative processes do not track expenditure against large appropriations in this way. NHHA funding is pooled with other ACT Government funding	Total repairs and maintenance incurred by the ACT Government in 2019-20 including public, social, indigenous, disability housing tenancies. Housing ACT does not categorise the maintenance spend in this manner. There was no requirement to provide a breakdown in forecast expenditure for 2018-19, therefore the ACT did not report these figures. Further, the ACT Government does not categorise its budget in accordance with these categories.
Public housing Maintenance	N/A	\$51.923 million		
State owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) (total including maintenance)	N/A	N/A		The ACT does not have SOMIH

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SOMIH Maintenance	N/A	N/A		There was no requirement to provide a breakdown in forecast expenditure for 2018-19, therefore the ACT did not report these figures. Further, the ACT Government does not categorise its budget in accordance with the below categories.
All social housing#	N/A	\$157.4 million		
Capital expenditure	N/A	\$13.5 million		
Homelessness total	\$1.7 million	\$2.4 million (includes the ACTs matched contribution of \$1.7 million)	\$23.3 million	The ACT Government reports on homelessness services and funding in annual reports and budget papers. As reported here, the ACT exceeds the NHHA matched funding component of \$1.7 million.

Requirement	Evidence			Key changes/ reasons for variation between allocated and actual expenditure in 2019-20
2019-20 funding and expenditure	State-own forecast expenditure for 2019-20 (\$m)	State-own actual expenditure in 2019-20 (\$m)	NHHA funds spent in 2019-20	
Clause 37(a)(i) - Actual Commonwealth and state-own homelessness expenditure by each of the national priority homelessness cohorts for financial year 2019-20				
a. Women and children affected by family and domestic violence	\$3.63	\$3,630,224.45	The ACT Government is unable to provide a specific breakdown of NHHA funding as our financial systems and administrative processes do not track expenditure against large appropriations in this way. NHHA funding is pooled with other ACT Government funding (as outlined above).	N/A - forecast expenditure closely matched expenditure. The breakdown in funding reported here are conservative estimates and likely to be higher. ACT Government service funding agreements with community services organisations do not breakdown cohort specific funding. Funding to homelessness providers who deliver cohort specific services for the ACT Government have been included in these amounts. Other funded services also provide support to a mix of these cohorts, however these amounts are not able to be differentiated and have not been included.
b. Children and young people	\$5.50	\$5,477,233.38		
c. Indigenous Australians	\$1.20	\$1,199,665.12		
d. People experiencing repeat homelessness	\$4.58	\$4,537,755.19		
e. People exiting institutions and care into homelessness	\$1.05	\$1,029,466.34		
f. Older people	\$0.47	\$467,362.97		

Requirement	Evidence		Comments
Estimated 2020-21 funding and expenditure	State-own funding allocation (excluding NHHA) for 2020-21	Estimated NHHA funds to be allocated in 2020-21	
Clause 37(b) – Estimated Commonwealth and state-own funding and expenditure for 2020-21			
Housing total	At the date of this report the ACT Government 2020-21 Budget, incorporating the 2020-21 Federal Budget has not been prepared and as	\$3.3 million	

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	such we are unable to provide the breakdown of the 2020-21 Budget at this point in time.		
Public housing (total including maintenance)	The ACT Government does not categorise its budget in accordance with these categories.	The ACT Government is unable to provide a specific breakdown of NHHA funding as our financial systems and administrative processes do not track expenditure against large appropriations in this way. NHHA funding is pooled with other ACT Government funding.	
Public housing maintenance			
State owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) (total including maintenance)			
SOMIH maintenance			
All social housing#			
Capital expenditure			
Homelessness total	At the date of this report the ACT Government 2020-21 Budget, incorporating the 2020-21 Federal Budget has not been prepared and as such we are unable to provide the breakdown of the 2020-21 Budget at this point in time. However the ACT will provide it's matched funding component of \$1.7 million.	\$23.7 million	

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Requirement	Outcome in 2019-20	Evidence	Comments
Clause 17 – Conditions which must be achieved in order to be eligible for funding under the NHHA			
(a) State/Territory has a publicly available housing strategy (or has been without a strategy for less than 18 months since July 2018)	Yes -	Link to current housing strategy https://www.act.gov.au/homes-housing/act-housing-strategy	
i) The housing strategy indicates level of supply needed to respond to projected demand	3000 homes per annum	Page 7	This was the estimated level of housing in 2018-19, when the Housing Strategy was developed. The ACT would expect this figure to vary over time in response to fluctuations in the housing environment.
ii) The housing strategy includes planned or expected levels of social housing	<p>2019-20 saw the purchase of 26 dwellings from the open market. Two of these dwellings (located side-by-side) were bought for the sole purpose to demolish and will be replaced with 14 dwellings (Class C adaptable) across the sites. The properties came with pre-approved DA to build the 14.</p> <p>The construction program in 2019-20 saw the delivery of 36 dwellings, with 30 coming from the redevelopment of exist Housing ACT land and the remaining six on newly purchased land.</p>	https://www.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1360534/ACT-Housing-Strategy-Growing-and-Renewing-Public-Housing-2019-2024.pdf	Planned levels of new properties noted throughout the document
iii) The housing strategy contributes to the housing priority policy areas	<p>The ACT Housing Strategy contains five broad goals that operationalise the articulated vision of the Strategy</p> <p>Each goal has multiple objectives under which multiple actions are taken which contribute to the priority policy areas.</p> <p>The Goals and objectives cited below are examples of how the requirement of the SoA has been met. They may not represent the</p>		<p>The key tools for implementing, monitoring and reporting on progress against the objectives of the ACT Housing Strategy are the Implementation Plan, annual Report Cards and the Homes and Housing website.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan sets out how the strategy will be delivered and sets out which government directorates are responsible for each action.</p> <p>The ACT Government reports back to the community annually on the strategy and the</p>

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	<p>entirety of work undertaken in the area.</p> <p>Affordable housing, Under Goal 4 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government will Investigate priority categories to assist ‘at-risk’ groups gain access to community housing, the Affordable Home Purchase database and Affordable Rental Real Estate Management model</p> <p>Social housing, Under Goal 1 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to dedicate at least 15% of the annual Indicative Land Release Program to affordable, community and public housing (with implementation from 2019-20 onwards).</p> <p>Encouraging growth and supporting the viability of the community housing sector Under Goal 4 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government will explore mechanisms to reduce the cost of land available to the community housing sector, including restrictions on Crown leases, land rent or sale at a fixed percentage of market rate.</p> <p>Tenancy reform Under goal 4 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to develop and</p>	<p><i>Goal 4 Objective E1. P.35</i></p> <p><i>Goal 1 Objective B 1. P.18</i></p> <p><i>Goal 4 Objective A 3. (P.37)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 4 Objective C 1. (P.39)</i></p>	<p>progress and status of the actions in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Homes and Housing website provides a central online location for information about the services, programs and policies designed to support the government's commitment to affordable housing in the ACT</p> <p>More details can be found at: https://www.act.gov.au/homes-housing/act-housing-strategy/implementation-and-reporting</p>
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	<p>implement outstanding recommendations from the Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 with a focus on fairness and security of tenure for vulnerable tenants.</p> <p>Home ownership Under Goal 5 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to set annual targets to increase affordable home purchase opportunities as part of the commitment to dedicate at least <i>15% of government land release to housing targets.</i></p> <p>Planning and zoning reform initiatives Under Goal 1 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to Test design-led planning controls within urban design guidelines as part of a draft Territory Plan variation for the City and Gateway urban renewal area</p>	<p><i>Goal 5 Objective A 1 (P.41)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 1 Objective F 1. (P.20)</i></p>	
<p>(b). State/Territory has a publicly available homelessness strategy (or has been without a strategy for less than 18 months since July 2018)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>https://www.act.gov.au/homes-housing/act-housing-strategy Goals 2 ,3 and 4</p>	<p>A strategic approach to addressing homelessness is contained within ACT Housing Strategy. The Specific goals that address homelessness are Goal 2 – reducing Homelessness and Goal 3 – Strengthening Social Housing. Goal 4 of Housing strategy also targets cohorts that are vulnerable to homelessness though the objective: Target Programs to increase supply of affordable supply of affordable housing for vulnerable and disadvantaged households.</p>
<p>i) The homelessness strategy addresses the priority homelessness cohorts</p>			

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<p>ii) The homelessness strategy sets out reforms and initiatives that contribute to reducing the incidence of homelessness</p>	<p>Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy outlines a range of objectives for the purpose of reducing homelessness.</p> <p>The following Actions under Goal 2 all address priority cohorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise young people, including young mothers, and women and children escaping domestic and family violence to provide assistance early to minimise the intergenerational impacts of experiencing homelessness. • Continue to partner with the Coordinator General for Family Safety to strengthen the government’s response to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence • Support culturally appropriate public and community housing accommodation options and support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. • Work with the sector to design and implement specific programs targeted at new and emerging groups at risk of homelessness. 	<p>In August 2019, YWCA Canberra launched the Next Door program, a specialist service assisting older women to access and maintain affordable and safe homes in the ACT. Designed to address the increasing needs of older women at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, Next Door provides comprehensive person-centred wrap around support enabling women to make informed decisions about their housing options. Women can access affordable housing (up to 74.9 per cent of market rent) in both the public and private rental markets. Since Next Door first opened its doors, more than 70 older women have been provided extensive assistance with their housing and the program has continued to see a strong demand for services.</p> <p>In 2020 the ACT Government has adopted a housing first approach that will help people in the community experiencing chronic homelessness, requiring urgent assistance and unable to sustain a tenancy on their own. As at 1 June 2020, Axial Housing has permanently housed 20 rough sleepers, including some entrenched rough sleepers who have previously been unwilling to engage. Evidence also suggests that Housing First recipients are</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the sector to investigate and implement a model of support that draws upon the principles of housing first, particularly for those experiencing long term homelessness. 	homeless for shorter periods of time than those assisted with emergency accommodation and transitional housing	
<p>iii) The homelessness strategy incorporates the homelessness priority policy reform areas</p>	<p>The ACT Housing Strategy contains 5 broad goals that operationalise the articulated vision of the Strategy</p> <p>Each goal has multiple objectives under which multiple actions are taken that may contribute to the priority policy areas.</p> <p>The Goals and objectives cited below are examples of how the requirement of the SoA has been. They may not represent the entirety of work undertaken in the area.</p> <p>Women and children affected by family and domestic violence Under Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to prioritise young people, including young mothers, and women and children escaping domestic and family violence to minimise the intergenerational impacts of homelessness.</p> <p>Children and young people Under Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to continue to partner with the Coordinator General for Family Safety to strengthen the</p>	<p><i>Goal 2 Objective B1 (P.25)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 2 Objective B 2. (P.25)</i></p>	<p>The key tools for implementing, monitoring and reporting on progress against the objectives of the are the Implementation Plan, annual Report Cards and the Homes and Housing website.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan sets out how the strategy will be delivered and sets out which government directorates are responsible for each action.</p> <p>The ACT Government reports back to the community annually on the strategy and the progress and status of the actions in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Homes and Housing website provides a central online location for information about the services, programs and policies designed to support the government's commitment to affordable housing in the ACT</p> <p>More details can be found at: https://www.act.gov.au/homes-housing/act-housing-strategy/implementation-and-reporting</p>

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	<p>government’s response to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence</p> <p>Indigenous Australians Under Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to Support culturally appropriate public and community housing accommodation options and support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.</p> <p>People experiencing repeat homelessness Under Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to Investigate and implement a model of support that draws upon the principles of housing first, particularly for those experiencing long-term homelessness.</p> <p>People exiting from care or institutions into homelessness Under Goal 2 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government committed to Work across government to establish tools to support information sharing and collaboration in response to homelessness, particularly for people exiting care or custody.</p> <p>Older people Under Goal 3 of the ACT Housing Strategy the ACT Government</p>	<p><i>Goal 2 Objective C 1. (P.26)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 2 Objective C 3. (P.26)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 2 Objective F 1. (P.29)</i></p> <p><i>Goal 3 Objective B.5 (P.32)</i></p>	
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	committed to Work closely with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to co-design new long-term accommodation for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people		
(d) State/Territory has contributed to the data improvement plan	Yes	The ACT has attended all meetings of the NHHA Working Group and provided input into the development of papers as requested.	
(e) Match Commonwealth homelessness funding	Yes		<p>The funding NHHA provides from the Commonwealth to each State and Territory, and is a small proportion of state/territory homelessness services expenditure. Commonwealth funding is indexed annually, however the expenditure of the States and Territories have increased significantly more than the indexed amount. Over time the scope of what State and Territories are expected to do has increased, however funding has not increased in order to meet these new expectations.</p> <p>The 2020 Report on Government Services shows that between 2015-16 and 2018-19 the ACT has increased expenditure by 16%, with expenditure in 2018-19 reaching \$24.3 million. An additional \$3m in funding has been provided to support people facing homelessness or domestic and family violence arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>