



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
BEC CODY MLA (CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mark Parton MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development:

Ref: CSD Annual Report Page 87, Housing ACT, Output 1.1 – Social Housing Services – NHHA generally.

1. At page 87, the Annual Report refers to NHHA funding. In regard to the NHHA generally, one of its Fact Sheets states that three out of the four benchmarks against which the National Affordable Housing Agreement is assessed were not on track or unlikely to be met:
 - a. Could the Minister advise whether this is referring to Commonwealth or State and Territory benchmarks;
 - b. If the Territory is (or was) falling short on benchmarks, what ones are the Territory falling short on, and by how much for each benchmark; and
 - c. What is being done to meet the lagging benchmarks (if applicable)?

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Under the previous National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), COAG's performance was assessed against four benchmarks:

1. 10 per cent reduction in the proportion of low income renter households experiencing rental stress.
2. 7 per cent reduction in number of homeless from 2006 to 2013.
3. 10 per cent increase in proportion of Indigenous Australians who own their own home from 2008 to 2017-18.
4. 20 per cent reduction in proportion of Indigenous households living in overcrowded conditions.

These were set as aspirational national benchmarks with the Commonwealth reporting against these using state and territory data. These benchmarks are not state and territory specific and do not reflect an individual jurisdiction's progress in these areas. It was widely acknowledged that the data available to adequately measure these benchmarks was lacking, due to inconsistencies in data collections across jurisdictions.

The NAHA was replaced on 30 June 2018 by the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, which covers the full housing spectrum, from homelessness, social housing, and affordable housing through to the

private market. A new set of indicators has been developed to better measure national progress under the new agreement. In recognition of the limitations of the previous benchmarks and the lack of consistent and adequate data to measure them, under the new agreement there is a commitment by the Commonwealth and states and territories to the development and implementation of an improved, nationally consistent housing and homelessness data set, and its collection and reporting.

To achieve this, a Housing and Homelessness Data Working Group was established. Led by the Commonwealth, the group comprises representatives from each state and territory government, including the ACT. Its role is to develop and implement a Housing and Homelessness Data Improvement Plan. The working group is currently working on the development of this plan. Details of the data improvement process is set out in Schedule C of the new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement which is publicly available on the Federal Financial Relations website.

It is also important to note that while the ACT Government is committed to the new national agreement and progress towards its aims, the Commonwealth holds many of the major economic and policy levers which will influence the ability of states and territories to achieve these.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date: 27/11/18

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry