

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness

Question No: SQ17-000019

Topic: Housing and Homelessness

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Senator Dean Smith asked:

I am wondering whether you could share with us what the 2016 COAG performance report says about the agreement?

Answer:

With regard to the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), the 2016 COAG Report on Performance, released in March 2016, confirmed that no improvements on the benchmarks had been made since the 2015 report. Findings against the benchmarks included:

- nationally, there is no evidence that progress has been made in meeting the benchmark that from 2007-08 to 2015-16, there was to be a 10 per cent reduction nationally in the proportion of low-income renter households in rental stress. According to the ABS Survey of Income and Housing, the national rate of rental stress has increased among low-income renter households from 35.4 per cent in 2007-08 to 42.5 per cent in 2013-14:
 - rental stress for low income households in capital cities increased from 36 per cent in 2007-08 to 47.1 per cent in 2013-14,
 - rental stress for low income households in flats or apartments increased from 44 per cent in 2007-08 to 52.9 per cent in 2013-14;
- from 2006 to 2013, there was to be a 7 per cent reduction, nationally, in the number of homeless Australians:
 - the number of homeless persons rose from just under 90,000 in 2006 to over 105,000 in 2011, a 17.3 per cent increase (Census 2006 and 2011). Data to assess whether this benchmark has been achieved will not be available until the Census 2016 data are published; it seems unlikely the benchmark will be achieved. The proportion of homeless Australians increased, even accounting for population increases. For every 10,000 persons that were counted in Australia, there were 48.9 persons homeless on Census night in 2011 compared to 45.2 persons per 10,000 on Census night in 2006 - an increase of 8 per cent;
- from 2008 to 2017-18, there was to be a 10 per cent increase, nationally, in the proportion of Indigenous households owning or purchasing a home. The 2008 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) indicates that Indigenous home ownership rates in 2008 were around 28.6 per cent. The 2014-15 NATSISS indicates that home ownership rates had increased to around 30.3 per cent in 2014-15, short of the rate required to meet a 10 per cent increase in the proportion of Indigenous households owning or purchasing a home by 2017-18; and
- from 2008 to 2017-18, there was to be a 20 per cent reduction, nationally, in the proportion of Indigenous households living in overcrowded conditions. The 2014-15 NATSISS indicates that this benchmark is likely to be achieved.

The full report can be found at <https://www.coag.gov.au/performance-reporting>