

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-110

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Data collection system

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Which areas of social and health policy data collection will the Institute prioritise on the road to full implementation of a uniform data collection system?

Answer:

This question is answered in the context of question E11-107 on homelessness services data collection.

Publications produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) over the last 5 years have focussed on the following social issues relevant to homelessness, including those related to improving data on homeless people and services available to them:

- people turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation;
- access to homelessness services for Indigenous people;
- young people and children living in social housing;
- demand for homelessness services;
- problem gambling among those seeking homelessness services;
- who receives priority housing and how long do stay;
- homeless Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) clients with mental health and substance use problems;
- homeless children in SAAP;
- female SAAP clients and children escaping domestic and family violence;
- associations between shelter and children's wellbeing, including development of national indicators;
- models to measure Indigenous housing needs; and
- counting homeless people.

The new Specialist Homelessness Services Collection will permit further examination of these issues in the future. At this point, the AIHW has not considered which areas of social policy to prioritise in its future work. The current AIHW Work Plan 2011–12 is focussed on 'bedding down' the new Specialist Homelessness Services collection.

More generally, the AIHW will prioritise future work in consultation with a range of stakeholders, as policy development is a responsibility of other government agencies that have views in relation to priorities.