

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

2020 - 2021

**Division:** Social Policy Division  
**Topic:** Homebuilder  
**Reference:** Written Question by Senator Gallagher, 4 September 2020 IQ20-000249

**Question:**

1. Noting Treasury's response to question on notice IQ20-000142 part (9), please provide a fortnightly update – broken down by state and territory and divided into substantial renovations vs new builds – of the following:
  - a. Applications submitted under the Homebuilder scheme
  - b. Applications approved under the Homebuilder Scheme
  - c. Homebuilder grant payments made
2. What other data does Treasury collect in relation to HomeBuilder applications and approvals (e.g. postcode data, estimated property value)

**Answer:**

1. HomeBuilder applications are received and assessed by states and territories in accordance with the National Partnership on HomeBuilder. Based on *preliminary* data reported by states and territories, as at 11 September 2020:

| Applications* as at 11 September |       |       |       |     |     |     |    |     |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-------|
|                                  | NSW   | VIC   | QLD   | WA  | SA  | TAS | NT | ACT | TOTAL |
| New Build                        | 882   | 2,055 | 954   | 130 | 418 | 243 | 8  | 174 | 4,864 |
| Substantial Renovation           | 481   | 508   | 251   | 14  | 72  | 36  | 2  | 107 | 1,471 |
| Total                            | 1,363 | 2,563 | 1,205 | 144 | 490 | 279 | 10 | 281 | 6,335 |

| Grants** paid by states and territories as at 11 September |     |     |     |    |    |     |    |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-------|
|  | NSW | VIC | QLD | WA | SA | TAS | NT | ACT | TOTAL |
| New Build  | 41  | 8   | 34  | 25 | 1  | 1   | 2  | 0   | 112   |
| Substantial Renovation                                     | 5   | 0   | 4   | 1  | 0  | 0   | 1  | 0   | 11    |
| Total  | 46  | 8   | 38  | 26 | 1  | 1   | 3  | 0   | 123   |

*\*Applications as reported above have not necessarily been assessed for eligibility by states and territories. Further, states and territories may use different definitions to report applications due to differences in application processes across jurisdictions, limiting cross-state comparisons.*

*\*\*Grants paid as reported above reflects preliminary data as reported by states and territories and does not reflect payments from the Commonwealth to states and territories.*

In accordance with the National Partnership on HomeBuilder, payments from the Commonwealth to states and territories occurs monthly in arrears, based on the monthly summary reports provided by the States. The first round of payments to states and territories is expected to occur in October 2020, for HomeBuilder grants certified by states and

territories as paid to eligible recipients in August 2020. Preliminary data reported by states and territories is subject to revision.

Payment of the HomeBuilder grant is made by States to eligible recipients after significant activity has occurred (for new builds) or once \$150,000 of the contract price has been paid (for substantial renovations). The majority of HomeBuilder payments are expected to be made later in 2020 and into 2021.

2. States and territories report monthly data on the value of contracts for which a HomeBuilder grant has been paid. The most recent data is for the month of August 2020 and does not include all jurisdictions. Treasury does not collect any further data on HomeBuilder applications or approvals.