

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4.1 Housing and Homelessness

Question No: SQ15-000750

Topic: Homelessness Peak Funding

Hansard page: CA133, 3 June 2015

Senator McLucas, Jan asked:

What about buying research from AHURI or buying research from AIHW about housing or homelessness?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will continue to commission and purchase research from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and other research institutes on an as-needs basis in order to inform policy advice around housing and homelessness. Funding research to be provided to the government for the purpose of developing policy is considered to be supported by the Constitution.

DSS currently provides funding to AHURI to support its National Housing Research Program through a multi-party Agreement with states and territories (except Queensland). This Agreement runs through to 30 June 2017.

The AIHW is an independent corporate Commonwealth entity, governed by a management board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health portfolio.

DSS continues to work closely with the AIHW on its annual Housing Assistance in Australia report and quarterly Specialist Homelessness Services Collection reports.

Longer-term arrangements for housing assistance and homelessness services (including research) will be considered in the context of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation.