

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** NPARIH/Remote Housing Strategy

**Senator:** Cameron, Doug

**Question reference number:** 141

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2017

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

1) Please provide details of progress towards achievement of the performance benchmarks and indicators in Part 4 of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing?

- a) Overcrowding;
- b) Incidence of homelessness;
- c) Number of overcrowded dwellings;
- d) Number of new dwellings constructed;
- e) Number of households covered by tenancy management arrangements;
- f) Repairs and maintenance benchmarks;
- g) Normalisation of essential and municipal services;
- h) Number of dwellings provided for flexible employment-related accommodation;
- i) Number of indigenous people from remote communities housed in employment related accommodation in regional areas;
- j) Number of local housing related jobs created for indigenous people.

2) In relation to the Remote Housing Strategy:

- a) Are the delivery targets for specific outcomes the same as those under the National Partnership Agreement?
- b) If not, what are the performance benchmarks? How do they differ from the National Partnership Agreement?
- c) What are the reporting processes?
- d) When will achievement against performance benchmarks be reported?

**Answer:**

1)

a) The most recent overcrowding data is from the 2011 Census. Overcrowding rates will be informed by the Census 2016. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) will be able to provide advice once the information is available. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) data released in 2015 suggests a reduction in overcrowding of around 10 percentage points in remote areas.

b) The most recent homelessness data is from the 2011 Census. Homelessness rates will be informed by the Census 2016. PM&C will be able to provide advice once the information is available.

c) The most recent overcrowding data is from the 2011 Census. Overcrowding rates will be informed by the Census 2016. PM&C will be able to provide advice once the information is available.

d) Since 2008 to 30 June 2016, 3,233 new houses have been delivered. A further 7,350 houses have also been refurbished or rebuilt.

e) As at 30 June 2016, 10,383 dwellings (98 per cent of all National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) dwellings) were covered by tenancy agreements. Standard procedures are in use to establish tenancy agreements for those that don't have them.

f) All jurisdictions have rolling repairs and maintenance programmes in place to ensure regular inspections of properties and responsive repairs and maintenance are completed within required timeframes.

g) All NPARIH communities are connected to essential and municipal services. In the last two years each state and territory has accepted ongoing responsibility for the delivery and supply of essential and municipal services, with the exception of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in South Australia and Mutijulu in the Northern Territory. Mutijulu is under the administration of Parks Australia.

h) As at 30 June 2016, 190 employment-related accommodation facilities (includes hostels and houses) with 318 bedrooms have been completed.

i) As at 30 June 2015, 411 people had accessed employment related accommodation.

j) Under NPARIH jurisdictions were required to employ a minimum of 20 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to work on new housing construction. Based on jurisdictions reporting, states have mostly met this target. The reporting does not provide specific number of jobs created.

2) a) No.

b) Under the Remote Housing Strategy, each jurisdiction has the same performance benchmark elements; capital (construction targets and employment and education housing)

and reform (property and tenancy management, Indigenous employment, Indigenous participation, Indigenous business engagement and Indigenous home ownership). Each jurisdiction has its own specific benchmarks and milestones under each of these elements as outlined in their respective Schedules (C-F). Western Australia has not yet signed the National Partnership and their schedule (Schedule D) is still under negotiation.

While NPARIH had specific targets for employment, funding was not attached to the target. There were also no targets for Indigenous business engagement, Indigenous participation or home ownership.

c) Each jurisdiction is required to provide reporting to PM&C to substantiate its respective milestone achievements. Formal reporting will be provided bi-annually (October and April) by each jurisdiction.

d) As per the above response, each jurisdiction will formally report their achievements in April and October of each year. First reports were due 31 October 2016. Data on PM&C's website will be updated later in the year from these reports.