

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 54

Topic: Indigenous Homelessness Targets

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

It is now two and a half years since the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing was signed, half way to the 2013 deadline of reducing Indigenous homelessness by 30%. What progress has been made to date?
How will the ABS proposals to use different measurements of homelessness affect this target?

Answer:

The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) performance target is based on Census data and the next available information on progress toward the target will be available following the 2011 Census. Data from the 2011 Census will be progressively released by the ABS from 1 July 2012.

The *Counting the Homeless* methodology which is used to determine homelessness from the Census data is currently being reviewed. The ABS released its discussion paper on the review for public consultation, accompanied by public discussion forums in all Australian capital cities between April and May 2011. The final methodological paper is still to be released by the ABS.

The revised methodology for estimating homeless people will apply to the 2011 Census and revised estimates for 2001 and 2006 will be published to maintain comparability over time. The NPARIH performance target of a 30 per cent reduction in the incidence of homelessness in remote Australia by 2013 will continue to apply.

It is important to acknowledge that the Census counts are point-in-time snapshots that do not provide a complete picture of homelessness. Other initiatives, such as the new homelessness services data collection, longitudinal study of homelessness and ABS surveys, such as the General Social Survey, will also be used to inform our understanding of homelessness over time.