

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: 43

Topic: Homelessness

Hansard Page: 1 June 2011, CA 103

Senator Payne asked:

Does the Department keep an eye on how many homelessness services are functioning in rural and remote areas?

Answer:

Yes. In 2009-10 (the latest data available to FaHCSIA) under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), 665 agencies (42.7%) were classified as inner or outer regional, remote or very remote. The table below provides a breakdown of these agencies by area classification.

Number of SAAP agencies in 2009-10

	Major City	Inner Region	Outer Region	Remote	Very Remote	Total
Number of agencies	893	375	201	43	46	1559
Percentage	57.3	24.1	12.9	2.7	3.0	100.0

Note: Region is based on the ABS Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. The postcode of an agency may fall into one or more Remoteness Areas and has been proportionally assigned. The location of the agency is based on the postal address of the agency. This may differ from the location services are delivered from.

The Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Collection, a new homelessness data collection developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, commences on 1 July 2011. It replaces the existing Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) collection. The new collection will provide improved data and more timely information about clients, the services they receive, and where they come from and go to.

The new Collection will paint a more accurate and comprehensive picture of homelessness around Australia.