

**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:** 53

**Topic:** Review of Homelessness Methodology

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Payne** asked:

If the Australian Bureau of Statistics adopts the proposed new model for measuring homelessness in the next census, and this provides a reduced estimate of the number of homeless, how will this affect the targets for reducing homelessness under the White Paper?

**Answer:**

The adoption of any revised estimates proposed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics following its review of the Counting the Homeless methodology will not affect the targets for reducing homelessness under the White Paper. The original targets of halving the rate of homelessness and offering accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it by 2020 remain intact.

Progress against the White Paper targets will be measured by comparing the relevant Census results against revised 2006 Census figures determined by the final ABS review of the Counting the Homeless methodology.

The Census provides point-in-time data and does not provide a complete picture of homelessness. Other initiatives, including the new specialist homelessness services data collection, the longitudinal study of homelessness and ABS surveys, such as the General Social Survey will also be used to assess progress against our targets and shed more light on homelessness over time.