



Australian Government
**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**



Human Services
Housing NSW

21 January 2010

Dear Community Housing Provider,

As Australia's national agency for health and welfare statistics and information, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) plays a key role in the gathering and reporting of information on the community housing sector in Australia in collaboration with the relevant government department. The information collected and reported on an annual basis helps to guide commonwealth and state decision making in relation to housing policy.

Many community housing organisations (CHOs) participate in the annual data collection by providing information about their tenants and dwellings. While these ongoing efforts are greatly appreciated, housing reforms now underway, driven by the introduction of the National Affordable Housing Agreement, will necessitate improved data quality and coverage.

Therefore on behalf of the Housing Ministers Advisory Committee (HMAC), the AIHW together with Housing NSW have commissioned a study to better understand the anticipated costs and issues associated with improving data quality and coverage within the sector.

As part of this study, a selection of CHOs within NSW, Queensland and Victoria will be invited to complete an online questionnaire about data quality and collection issues within the next month. The questionnaire has been developed by the AIHW, in consultation with Housing NSW and has been endorsed by the Community Housing Federation of Australia. Should your organisation be selected, we urge you to take this important opportunity to provide information about your organisation and assist us in understanding and supporting the sector.

If you have any queries regarding this study please contact Kate Mallen at the AIHW (Ph: 02 6244 1107, Email: kate.mallen@aihw.gov.au).

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Penny Allbon
Director
AIHW

Leonie King
Executive Director
Community Housing Division
Housing NSW