

Homelessness:

clearer picture,

better future

## KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION SECURE

### Specialist Homelessness Services collection

*Many steps have been taken to ensure that the information you provide to the SHS collection remains confidential.*

#### KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL

Your name is not part of the SHS collection and will not be provided to the AIHW. The following alpha code is used to distinguish between individuals for statistical purposes but not to identify an individual.

Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> letters of your first name and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> letters of your family name are provided to the AIHW.

Letters of given name	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2<sup>nd</sup></td><td>3<sup>rd</sup></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>								2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>			
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	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		5 <sup>th</sup>									
Sex	Male <input type="radio"/> 1      Female <input type="radio"/> 2												

#### HOW IS THE ALPHA CODE USED?

The alpha code is combined with your sex and date of birth to create a statistical linkage key (SLK) — almost every person will have a unique SLK. This provides a method to avoid double counting individuals in the statistics that are reported.

#### WHAT HAPPENS TO MY INFORMATION?

All information is kept strictly confidential. The AIHW has strict policies and practices to protect data and its building is protected by an electronic security system. Any information kept electronically is stored on secure servers.

#### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like more information, please ask.



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## PRIVACY INFORMATION CARD

### Specialist Homelessness Services collection WE NEED YOUR HELP

*We need information to help people who experience homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. Your story is important and the information you provide can help develop programs to prevent homelessness, improve services for homeless people, and help people find the way out of homelessness.*

#### **WHAT IS THE SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES (SHS) COLLECTION?**

The SHS collection provides data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) from agencies such as this one that are funded to assist homeless people and/or help maintain their accommodation. It collects information about your circumstances, and the type of help you asked for and the services provided to you by this agency.

#### **WILL I BE IDENTIFIED?**

No. The SHS collection does not contain any information that identifies you. Although you provide your name to this agency, it is not passed to the AIHW.

#### **WILL MY INFORMATION BE GIVEN TO CENTRELINK OR THE POLICE?**

No. By law, the AIHW cannot pass on any information in the SHS collection that can be used to identify you to the police, Centrelink or any other government department, organisation or individual.

#### **DO I NEED TO AGREE?**

While you cannot be identified, you may consider that some information is sensitive and that you do not want this information to be passed on to the AIHW.

You can choose at any time during your support period to not have the following information provided to the AIHW:

- Indigenous status
- country of birth
- living arrangement of children on care or protection orders
- type of institution recently left
- formally diagnosed mental health condition
- source of information on a mental health condition
- when mental health services were received.

If you choose not to provide the above information to the AIHW, you will still be able to use this agency's services.