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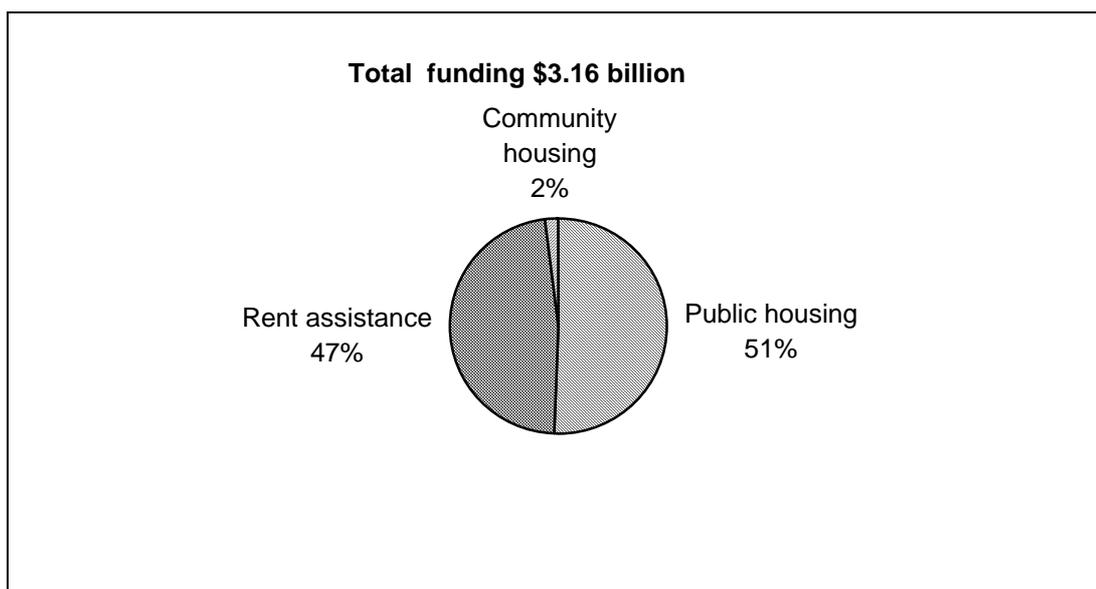
## HOUSING PREFACE

Housing services in Australia encompass a range of programs managed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory, and Local Governments, and in some instances the not-for-profit sector.

### *Features of the sector*

The largest expenditure programs for housing assistance in Australia are public housing and rent assistance. The former is provided to low income households by the State and Territory Governments, with the Commonwealth Government providing financial assistance. The latter is provided by the Commonwealth Departments of Social Security and Veterans' Affairs to persons in receipt of Social Security and Veterans' Affairs pensions or benefits.

Expenditure on government housing assistance, 1994–95 (per cent)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Only includes expenditure under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

Source: DSS unpublished

In 1994–95, total Commonwealth Government expenditure on public rental housing was larger than rental assistance — \$1.6 billion compared with \$1.5 billion. Public rental housing, however, was provided to 414 800 households compared with over 901 000 recipients of rent assistance. Total Commonwealth Government funding for the third component of housing assistance, community housing, was \$61 million in 1994–95 and this funded 275 projects.

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### *Links among services*

There are many links among government housing services, and also links between this sector and other government services.

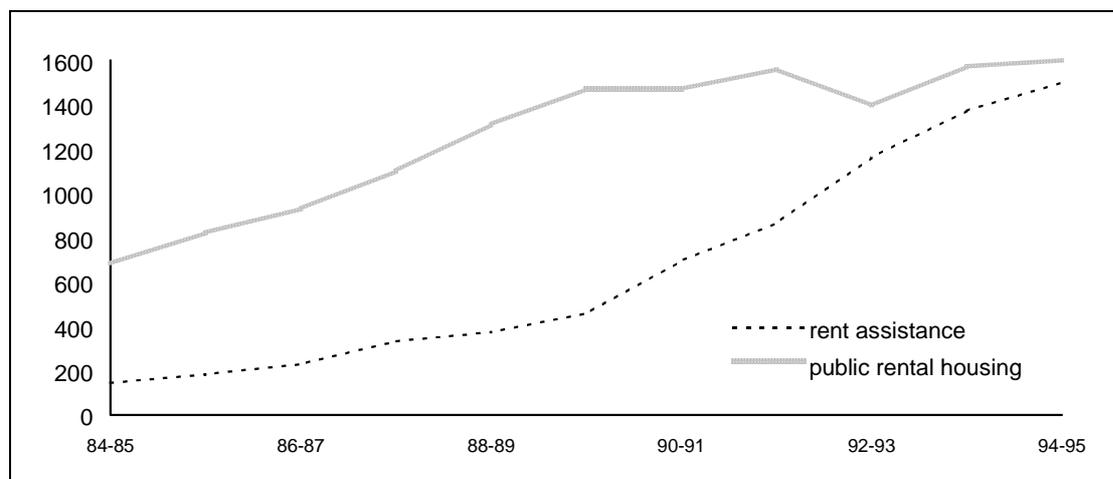
Clients who utilise programs which provide care: for the frail aged or those with a disability; and crisis and medium-term accommodation services — for example, the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (chapter 10) — are often also potential recipients of rent assistance or public rental housing.

Indicators for public housing only are presented in this Report, although some scoping work has been undertaken for community housing. It is anticipated that community housing will be covered in the next Report.

### *Recent developments*

Whilst in real terms funding for both rent assistance and private rental housing has increased, the funding for rental assistance has grown more rapidly than has funding for public rental housing.

Expenditure on public rental housing and rent assistance in 1994–95 prices, 1984–85 to 1994–95 (\$ million)



Source: DSS unpublished and DSS 1996.