
Ongoing entitlement

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHADD
Knowledgebase ID: 000868 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT
Admin status: SUPERSEDED Effective date: 01-MAR-05
Definition: Ongoing entitlement refers to those income units that meet Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) qualification criteria at the date information was extracted from the Centrelink operational database, and were paid CRA in the fortnight prior to date of extract.
Eligibility requirements include:

- Payment of private rent in excess of threshold amount
- Rent details have been verified
- Youth allowees have an approved reason for living away from home
- Young persons not living at home
- Sub-tenants in public housing for which the state housing authority has been advised that they live there or the household pays market rent.

Home-owners are not generally eligible for CRA but there are exceptions for those paying site or mooring fees or other exceptions including those living away from their usual home to give or receive care
Context: The ongoing entitlement concept is specific to the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) program data set. CRA is paid with social security and Family Tax Benefit (FTB) payments. Entitlements are calculated in respect of individual days and paid fortnightly. Therefore, a person may have been entitled to one or more days CRA with their last payment but had ceased to be entitled to further payment by the time the data was extracted (eg because they had entered public housing or ceased to pay rent). These people would have no ongoing entitlement. Income units who do not have an ongoing entitlement are excluded from the annual performance reporting process.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Guide For Use: An ongoing entitlement is not used for a simple count of the number of people assisted but is used for most other performance indicators.

The following rules are applied to the Commonwealth housing data set including CRA to determine which income units have an ongoing entitlement to assistance. Only the first two tests for ongoing eligibility are applied when the indicator is derived from Centrelink data rather than the housing file.

1. Pays private rent in excess of threshold amount.

A valid rent amount that exceeds the rent threshold for the respective income unit type. Note that only 2/3rds of the amount paid as Board and Lodgings is to be treated as rent. Valid rent type codes that permit payment of CRA are:

- BOA board and lodgings
- LOD lodging fees
- MNT maintenance fees for nursing home or retirement village
- MOO mooring fees
- OTH not covered by any of the above
- PRI private rent
- SIT site fees

The following rent codes prevent an ongoing CRA entitlement:

- FBD free board
- FBL free board and lodgings
- FLD free lodgings
- GOV government rent
- NRP no rent paid
- Blank not coded

2. Rent details have been verified

Rent must be verified, or the person has been given an exemption or extra time to confirm details. Rent verification codes that permit payment are:

- COA changed address-customer has been given 14 days to verify rent details
- EXB exempt as customer is in boarding style accommodation
- EXC exempt as customer is a full time resident in non Commonwealth funded residential care facilities
- EXE exempt from verification (no new cases allowed, replaced by other EX codes)
- EXR exempt as customer is in a refuge
- EXV exempt as customer is in a retirement village
- HAR hardship-customer has been given 28 days to verify rent

details

- MA1 mailout 1 (used only for customers selected for review in April/May 2002 who had not been reviewed since March 1999. This would include most persons getting RA with the old code of VER)
- MA2 mailout 2 (used only for customers selected for review in April/May 2002 who were thought to be at risk of having incorrect details recorded)
- RES details resupplied at conversion - very old data collection process)
- RVE reverify rent - customer due to have a 6-monthly review. Have 14 days to reverify rent details.
- VEC verified (rent certificate) - rent verified by a certificate signed by landlord.
- VED verified (rent declaration) - could not provide a tenancy agreement or rent certificate but have accepted a declaration as to the current circumstances.
- VEF verified (formal) - rent verified by sighting a written tenancy agreement.
- VER verified (No new cases allowed. Remaining cases mainly thought to be in nursing homes etc and likely to be exempt from verification)

3. Not home-owners

In general, CRA is not payable to homeowners. There are exceptions for those living away from their usual home to give or receive care and for those paying site or mooring fees. The source files do not have the detail needed to identify those getting CRA because they are in a care situation.

The following home ownership codes prevent an ongoing CRA entitlement

- GFH government funded aged care-home owner
- GFN government funded aged care-non-homeowner
- SRH special residence (homeowner)
- Blank not coded

The following home ownership codes prevent an ongoing entitlement to CRA unless the rent type is site fees or mooring fees:

- POH purchasing own home
- HOM home owner
- PAR owns jointly with someone other than partner
- LIF bequeathed life interest
- DEE deemed interest in home
- JNT joint ownership with partner
- OTH other form of ownership

4. Youth allowees living away from home

Youth allowees can only get CRA if they are eligible for the higher away-from-home rate. This is approximated by the YAL independent code. Values that permit payment of CRA are:

- HOM homeless
- AFH away from home
- IND independent

5. Young persons living at home

Single young people without children generally do not qualify for CRA if living in the parental home. Young persons are those under 25 (or 21 if getting a Disability Support Pension). Those affected by the measure living in a parental home have an accommodation code of 'LWP' (living with parent) or 'LWJ' (living jointly with parent). There are some minor exceptions whereby young persons living at home may be eligible for CRA eg for those who were formerly partnered or had children.

6. Sub-tenants in public housing

Sub-tenants in public housing, ie who are not a party to the agreement with the state housing authority (SHA), may qualify for CRA provided that either the SHA has been advised that they live there or the household pays market rent. A small number of persons recorded as paying private rent may be excluded from getting CRA because of those provisions. This is indicated by a Government sub-tenant code of 'YES'

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: FaCS 2003. Unpublished. Draft performance indicators for Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

Source Organisation: Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
