Overview of the task

17 April COAG

June

Release of Discussion Paper

July

Australian Leaders’ Retreat

Late 2015

Release of Green Paper

Public submissions on Green Paper

COAG

2016

Release of White Paper

We are here
The Green Paper will contain a range of reform options.

We expect there will be a public submission process following release of the Green Paper.

The public’s views on Federation reform will inform the development of the White Paper, to be released in 2016.
• The Expert Advisory Panel have been appointed to provide advice and contribute to public discussion on aspects of the White Paper.

• The Panel provides advice to the Prime Minister.

• The Panel has a key role in advocating the need for reform to the federation, promoting the case for change and encouraging community awareness and engagement in the process, in particular through the public submissions process that will follow the release of the Green Paper.
Members of the Panel

The Hon John Bannon AO

Professor Greg Craven

The Hon Cheryl Edwardes

Dr Doug McTaggart

The Hon Alan Stockdale

Ms Jennifer Westacott
Summary of problems in housing

Problems

• Government assistance is under pressure and costs are increasing—demand for services exceeds supply.

• Inequity of outcomes based on tenure and creation of poverty traps.

• Lack of transparency.

• An increase in the proportion of households in ‘housing stress’.

Drivers related to the Federation

• Different levels of government set subsidies for different types of housing assistance which can vary for people in similar circumstances depending on tenure.

• Lack of coordination across services and programs can lock people into poverty traps rather than supporting pathways to long term, secure tenure in the private market.
Australian Leaders’ Retreat
22 July 2015 Victoria Barracks, Sydney
All Leaders agreed Federation reform provides a rare opportunity to tackle the challenges facing Australia.

Improving the way our Federation works will improve Australia’s overall fiscal position and our national productivity.

Achieving this reform will require both the Commonwealth and the States to make policy changes that would both improve the climate for business, and ensure more efficient delivery of government services while keeping taxes as low as possible.

Leaders discussed the challenges facing Australia as we strive to deliver improved health services, new infrastructure, fair and affordable access to housing, training designed for real jobs and a school education system that helps Australian children stay ahead in a globally competitive world.
Leaders agreed to focus reform on health, education, infrastructure and housing.

At the next COAG meeting before the end of the year, Leaders will consider more developed options to progress reform. Between now and then, reforms will be progressed by individual Leaders informed by the Expert Advisory Panel:

- **School Education** (QLD and ACT)
- **Health** (VIC and TAS)
- **Training** (WA and VIC)
- **Revenue and Housing** (NSW and QLD)
- **Early Childhood Learning** (SA, NT and the Australian Local Government Association)
- **Indigenous** (NT and WA).
In relation to housing, Leaders focused on greater access to affordable housing, increasing supply and better access for vulnerable people to social housing.

Leaders also recognised a place to call home was a fundamental human need.

There was agreement to look at ways to reduce spending duplication between the Commonwealth State housing agreements and the Federal Government’s provision of rental assistance to low income people.

NSW and QLD are leading work on developing housing reform options.