

4.2 GEOGRAPHICAL CATEGORIES

There are a number of ways of approaching a geographical analysis. The Australian Bureau of Statistics uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) for the collection and dissemination of geographically organised statistics (ABS 2006c). The ASGC provides seven interrelated classification structures which are designed for different practical purposes. This report uses the 'Main Structure' which covers the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Main Structure comprises five hierarchical levels: census districts, statistical local areas, statistical subdivisions, statistical divisions, and states and territories. This analysis uses statistical divisions and statistical subdivisions as the main geographical categories, because patterns can be identified more easily if larger geographical categories are used.

In each state and territory, the capital city is treated as a statistical division which includes the greater metropolitan area and any anticipated growth corridors for at least the next 20 years. The statistical division 'represents the city in a wider sense' (ABS 2006c, p. 15). Statistical divisions outside of the capital cities are 'relatively homogeneous region(s) characterised by identifiable ... links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities' (ABS 2006c, p. 15).

The number of statistical divisions in Queensland was increased from 11 in 2001 to 13 in 2006, following a major re-drawing of the boundaries in South East Queensland. This makes comparisons between 2001 and 2006 difficult. The 2006 statistical divisions are shown in Map 1. They are Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Wide Bay-Burnett, Darling Downs, South West, Fitzroy, Central West, Mackay, Northern, Far North and North West.

Statistical subdivisions are defined as 'socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants' (ABS 2006c, p. 14). Brisbane is divided into 12 statistical subdivisions. There are also statistical subdivisions which correspond to major regional population centres. There are 44 of these across the country, including 13 in Queensland. They are Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Gold Coast North, Gold Coast East, Gold Coast West, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Thuringowa, Toowoomba and Townsville.

In other cases, statistical subdivisions cover non-urban areas. These are defined as rural areas which do not include cities with populations of 25 000 or above. These non-urban areas are said to have 'identifiable links between economic units within the region' and there may be the 'unifying influence' (ABS 2006c, p. 14) of one or more country towns. These rural/

remote subdivisions have small populations, and sometimes they have high rates of homelessness but few homeless people.

4.3 OVERVIEW: QUEENSLAND

Just under half (45 per cent) of the population of Queensland lives in the Brisbane statistical division and this is where we find the largest concentration of homeless people. Table 4.1 shows that the census identified 7996 homeless people in Brisbane and the rate of homelessness was 45 per 10 000. This is similar to the rate of homelessness in other capital cities such as Melbourne (41 per 10 000), Adelaide (47 per 10 000) and Perth (47 per 10 000).

4.1 NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND RATE PER 10 000 OF THE POPULATION, BRISBANE AND REMAINDER OF QUEENSLAND

	Brisbane	Remainder	Queensland
Number	7996	18 786	26 782
Rate	45	88	69

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006

There were 18 786 homeless people outside of Brisbane, where the rate of homelessness was 88 per 10 000 (Table 4.1). In most states, a majority of homeless people are in the capital city, but in Queensland 70 per cent of the homeless were in regional centres and country towns. Chapters 5 to 8 describe rural, regional and remote Queensland.

This chapter focuses on the distribution of the homeless population in Brisbane. We divide the Brisbane statistical division into two parts which we call 'Brisbane City' and the 'outer suburbs and growth corridors'.

'Brisbane City' covers five subdivisions: Inner Brisbane, Northwest Inner Brisbane, Northwest Outer Brisbane, Southeast Inner Brisbane and Southeast Outer Brisbane. Brisbane City is discussed first.

The 'outer suburbs and growth corridors' cover Beaudesert Shire (Part A), Caboolture Shire, Ipswich City, Logan City, Pine Rivers Shire, Redcliffe City and Redland Shire. These subdivisions are discussed second.

4.4 BRISBANE CITY

There were 2070 homeless people in Inner Brisbane and the rate of homelessness was 246 per 10 000 of the population (Table 4.2). Inner Brisbane had nine per cent of Brisbane City's population but 38 per cent of its homeless people. It is usual to find a higher rate of homelessness in the inner suburbs of capital cities. This is the case in Sydney, Melbourne,

Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra. Homeless people often gravitate to the inner city, where services for homeless people have traditionally been located.

4.2 NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND RATE PER 10 000 OF THE POPULATION, BRISBANE CITY

	Inner Brisbane	Northwest Inner	Southeast Inner	Northwest Outer	Southeast Outer	Total
Number	2070	774	616	1047	888	5395
Rate	246	44	41	33	39	56

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

In Southeast Inner and Northwest Inner Brisbane, there were 616 and 774 homeless people respectively and the rates of homelessness were 41 and 44 per 10 000.

In the Southeast Outer and Northwest Outer Brisbane there were 888 and 1047 homeless people and the rates of homelessness were lower than in the other subdivisions (39 and 33 per 10 000).

Altogether, there were 3325 homeless people in suburban Brisbane. The provision of services in suburban areas assists people in the early stages of homelessness, including those at risk, and reduces the move to the inner city.

Table 4.3 shows the proportion of people in different sectors of the homeless population. In Inner Brisbane, 64 per cent of homeless people were staying in boarding houses, 14 per cent were in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough, 13 per cent were with other households, and nine per cent were in SAAP. Census collectors reported 'people sleeping in the bushes in parks', 'on park benches', 'living under bridges' and 'camping behind buildings'.

In contrast, about 40 per cent of homeless people in Southeast Inner Brisbane and Northwest Inner Brisbane were staying with other households, between 30 and 38 per cent were in boarding houses, and roughly one-quarter were in SAAP. Only three per cent were in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough.

4.3 PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION, BRISBANE CITY

Percentage						
	Inner Brisbane	Northwest Inner	Southeast Inner	Northwest Outer	Southeast Outer	Total
Boarding house	64	38	30	12	23	40
SAAP	9	22	26	31	20	19
Friends/relatives	13	37	41	54	55	34
Improvised dwellings	14	3	3	3	2	7
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Number						
	Inner Brisbane	Northwest Inner	Southeast Inner	Northwest Outer	Southeast Outer	Total
Boarding house	1325	294	185	122	209	2135
SAAP	190	168	158	327	175	1018
Friends/relatives	267	284	254	564	486	1855
Improvised dwellings	288	28	19	34	18	387
	2070	774	616	1047	888	5395

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

In Southeast Outer Brisbane and Northwest Outer Brisbane, there were more people staying with other households (55 and 54 per cent), smaller numbers in boarding houses (23 and 12 per cent), and a substantial minority in SAAP (20 and 31 per cent).

Altogether, 40 per cent of the homeless in Brisbane City were in boarding houses (2135 people), and they were disproportionately in the inner city (Table 4.3). Another 34 per cent of the homeless were staying with other households (1855 people), mainly in suburban Brisbane. There were 1018 people in SAAP, distributed more evenly across the city. Finally, there were 387 people in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough. Most (74 per cent) were in Inner Brisbane and they were either squatting or sleeping rough.

4.5 OUTER SUBURBS AND GROWTH CORRIDORS

There were 2601 homeless people in the seven subdivisions covering outer suburban Brisbane. These include traditional 'working class' areas such as Ipswich and Logan, the rural subdivision of Beaudesert, as well as the growth corridors of Caboolture and Pine Rivers.

Table 4.4 shows there were 663 homeless people in Caboolture, 540 homeless people in Ipswich, 537 in Logan City, and 312 in Pine Rivers. The rate of homelessness was highest in Caboolture (50 per 10 000) and lowest

in Redland (19 per 10 000). In four subdivisions (Beaudesert, Ipswich, Logan and Redcliffe) the rate was between 30 and 39 per 10 000.

4.4 NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND RATE PER 10 000 OF THE POPULATION, OUTER URBAN AREAS, BRISBANE

	Beaudesert Shire Pt A	Caboolture Shire	Ipswich City	Logan City	Pine Rivers Shire	Redcliffe City	Redland Shire	Total
Number	125	663	540	537	312	182	242	2601
Rate	30	50	39	31	22	36	19	32

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

Table 4.5 shows that 66 per cent of homeless people in the outer suburbs were staying with friends or relatives (1715 people), 16 per cent were in SAAP (432 people), 10 per cent were in boarding houses (250 people), and eight per cent were in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough.

4.5 PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION, OUTER URBAN AREAS, BRISBANE

Percentage

	Beaudesert Shire Pt A	Caboolture Shire	Ipswich City	Logan City	Pine Rivers Shire	Redcliffe City	Redland Shire	Total
Boarding house	3	8	22	7	1	5	9	10
SAAP	0	23	28	17	6	3	5	16
Friends/relatives	74	60	44	72	80	90	79	66
Improvised dwel.	23	9	6	4	13	2	7	8
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Number

	Beaudesert Shire Pt A	Caboolture Shire	Ipswich City	Logan City	Pine Rivers Shire	Redcliffe City	Redland Shire	Total
Boarding house	4	56	120	37	3	9	21	250
SAAP	0	152	151	92	20	5	12	432
Friends/relatives	93	396	236	385	249	164	192	1715
Improvised dwel.	28	59	33	23	40	4	17	204
	125	663	540	537	312	182	242	2601

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

There were some differences between the subdivisions. In Redcliffe, nearly all the homeless were staying temporarily with other households, as were about 80 per cent of the homeless in Pine Rivers and Redland and 74 per cent of the homeless in Beaudesert.

In Caboolture, Ipswich and Logan, there were more people in SAAP than in the other subdivisions. They accounted for 17 per cent of the homeless in Logan, 23 per cent of the homeless in Caboolture and 28 per cent of the homeless in Ipswich.

Ipswich was the only subdivision where a significant proportion of the homeless (22 per cent) were in boarding houses. Ipswich also had a smaller proportion (44 per cent) of people staying temporarily with other households, compared with the other subdivisions.

Overall, eight per cent of the homeless were in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough with 59 people counted in Caboolture and smaller numbers in the other subdivisions.

4.6 MARGINAL RESIDENTS OF CARAVAN PARKS

The national report pointed out that boarding houses are more common in capital cities and less common in regional centres and country towns. In regional and country areas, SAAP workers sometimes refer homeless people to local caravan parks if there is no emergency accommodation available. Marginal residents of caravan parks were defined as people who were renting caravans or cabins, living at their usual address, and with no one in the dwelling having full-time employment.

Seventy per cent of boarding house residents across the country were in capital cities and 30 per cent were in regional centres and country towns. In Queensland, 39 per cent of boarding house residents were in Brisbane City (Table 4.6) and 61 per cent were in regional centres across the state.

4.6 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN BOARDING HOUSES AND MARGINAL RESIDENTS OF CARAVAN PARKS, QUEENSLAND

	Boarding house (N=5438)	Caravan (N=6385)
	%	%
Brisbane City (five subdivisions)	39	11
Remainder of QLD	61	89
	100	100

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

Nationally, 71 per cent of marginal caravan park residents were outside of the capital cities, and in Queensland 89 per cent of marginal caravan park dwellers were outside of Brisbane (Table 4.6). In some communities, local SAAP workers send homeless people to the local caravan park if there is no alternative accommodation available. Caravan parks may also house some people on a longer-term basis who are unable to re-enter the private rental market.

Table 4.7 shows that there were 1694 marginal residents of caravan parks in the Brisbane statistical division, and most were in Northwest Outer Brisbane (317 people), Southeast Outer Brisbane (350 people) and the growth corridors (992 people).

4.7 NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND NUMBER OF MARGINAL RESIDENTS OF CARAVAN PARKS, BRISBANE STATISTICAL DIVISION

	Inner Brisbane	Northwest Inner	Southeast Inner	Northwest Outer	Southeast Outer	Growth corridors	Total
Homeless	2070	774	616	1047	888	2601	7996
Rate per 10 000	246	44	41	33	39	32	45
Caravan	0	22	13	317	350	992	1694
Total	2070	796	629	1364	1238	3593	9690
Rate per 10 000	246	45	42	43	54	45	55

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

Caravan parks in Queensland fall into four groups. First, there are many caravan parks in all states and territories that are used exclusively for tourist accommodation. There are also parks that cater for retired people who own their caravans. There are no marginal caravan dwellers in these parks.

Second, there are parks that are used for tourist accommodation in summer, but vans are rented out to poor people in winter. Before summer, however, rents are increased, and marginal tenants are forced to move on.

Third, there are caravan parks which have a mixed clientele all year: tourists, owners and renters. In some of these parks, the rented caravans are in separate areas, often 'out the back'.

Finally, there are a small number of parks that are used as permanent accommodation for poor people and as crisis accommodation. These parks are often overcrowded with vans in poor condition.

For some policy purposes, marginal residents of caravan parks might be thought of as part of the tertiary population. If the broader definition is employed this makes no difference to the rate of homelessness in the inner suburbs of Brisbane (Table 4.7) However, in Northwest Outer Brisbane the

rate increases from 33 to 43 per 10 000 and in Southeast Outer Brisbane it increases from 39 to 54 per 10 000. In the growth corridors the rate increases from 32 to 45 per 10 000.

