

# **Homeless people in SAAP**

**SAAP NDC  
Annual report  
2001–02**

**South Australia**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Australians by informing community discussion and decision making through national leadership in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

SAAP NDCA REPORT SERIES 7

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

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# Preface

This publication contains statistical tables and charts in relation to South Australia and is intended to supplement the sixth (2001–02) annual national report on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection. The first national report, containing 1996–97 data, was published in December 1997. The reports provide information on people who are homeless and those who are at risk of being homeless.

A productive and cooperative partnership has continued between the SAAP National Data Collection Agency (managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare), SAAP agencies and the SAAP Information Sub-committee (formerly the SAAP Data Sub-committee), comprising government, community and expert representatives. Valuable support and encouragement have been provided by the SAAP Coordination and Development Committee, which is responsible for the national direction of the SAAP program.

This partnership has been built on shared goals and mutual trust. The key has been agencies' willingness to collect and provide data to the National Data Collection Agency, knowing that any personal information provided by clients is protected by the extremely strict confidentiality provisions of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*.

The fact that 93% of agencies in South Australia provided data in 2001–02 is testimony to their collective commitment to, and confidence in, the collection. A 94% participation rate was recorded in 2000–01. The proportion of SAAP clients who consented to the provision of their personal data to the National Data Collection Agency decreased from 81% in 2000–01 to 75% in 2001–02.

This large and complex project has not only a high level of support but also a high level of accuracy. We are confident that we can further improve the quality of the information provided to help policy makers and the community better understand and provide for the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of being so.

Under the Coordination and Development Committee's direction, a SAAP National Research Program has been established to undertake and fund studies on homeless people, often using data from the National Data Collection. Over time, the availability of time-series SAAP data will greatly increase the usefulness of the data. The publication of this sixth annual report and the release of 2001–02 data are one step towards this goal.

Dr Richard Madden  
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SAAP Coordination and  
Development Committee

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Finally, the authors acknowledge the vital role played by data providers. This report draws together a large amount of statistical material and could not have been produced without the efforts and cooperation of SAAP service providers and clients, who provided service and client information, and of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and the South Australian Department of Human Services, which provided administrative data.

# Abbreviations and symbols

## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CAP	Crisis Accommodation Program
DV	Domestic violence
NDC	National Data Collection
NDCA	National Data Collection Agency
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

## Symbols in tables

..	Not applicable
–	Nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
n.a.	Not available
n.e.s.	Not elsewhere specified

# Glossary

<b>Accompanying child</b>	A person aged under 18 years who accompanies a <i>client</i> to a SAAP <i>agency</i> during a <i>support period</i> or who requires and/or receives assistance from a SAAP <i>agency</i> as a result of their parent or guardian being a client of the same <i>agency</i> . An accompanying child may or may not require or receive assistance.
<b>Accompanying child support period</b>	<p>An <i>accompanying child support period</i> refers to each <i>support period</i> in which the child either accompanies their parent or guardian to a SAAP <i>agency</i> or receives assistance as a result of their parent or guardian's <i>support period</i>.</p> <p>Within an <i>accompanying child support period</i> the child may receive one-off assistance and/or support over a period of time. Since the child may not be supported for the entire duration of their parent's or guardian's <i>support period</i>, it is not possible to assess the length of support for an <i>accompanying child</i>.</p>
<b>Agency</b>	An organisation or establishment that receives a specified amount of SAAP funds to provide services.
<b>Alpha code</b>	A predetermined combination of letters from a <i>client's</i> name, together with a letter designating the <i>client's</i> gender. A 'valid <i>alpha code</i> ' is a legitimate <i>alpha code</i> (that is, one containing only letters from the alphabet and ending in either M or F) joined to the <i>client's</i> reported year of birth and encrypted to create a unique <i>client</i> indicator.
<b>Client</b>	<p>A person aged 18 years or older, or a person of any age not accompanied by a parent or guardian, who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• receives <i>support</i> or assistance from a SAAP <i>agency</i> which entails generally 1 hour or more of a worker's time, either with that <i>client</i> directly or on behalf of that <i>client</i>, on a given day; or</li><li>• is accommodated by a SAAP <i>agency</i>; or</li><li>• enters into an <i>ongoing support relationship</i> with a SAAP <i>agency</i>.</li></ul>
<b>Closed accompanying child support period</b>	An <i>accompanying child support period</i> associated with a <i>closed support period</i> .

<b>Closed support period</b>	<i>A support period</i> that had finished before the end of the reporting period – 30 June.
<b>English proficiency group 1 countries</b>	Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
<b>English proficiency group 2-4 countries</b>	Countries, excluding Australia, that are not included in <i>English proficiency group 1</i> .
<b>Homeless person</b>	<p>A person who does not have access to safe, secure and adequate housing. A person is considered not to have access to safe, secure and adequate housing if the only housing to which they have access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• damages, or is likely to damage, their health; or</li> <li>• threatens their safety; or</li> <li>• marginalises them through failing to provide access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– adequate personal amenities, or</li> <li>– the economic and social supports that a home normally affords; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>• places them in circumstances which threaten or adversely affect the adequacy, safety, security and affordability of that housing; or</li> <li>• has no security of tenure – that is, they have no legal right to continued occupation of their home.</li> </ul> <p>A person is also considered homeless if he or she is living in accommodation provided by a SAAP <i>agency</i> or some other form of emergency accommodation.</p>
<b>Ongoing support relationship</b>	<p>A relationship between a SAAP <i>agency</i> and a person whereby some assistance has been provided to that person and it is agreed that future contact will occur between the person and the <i>agency</i> for the purpose of providing additional assistance.</p> <p>An invitation to return to the <i>agency</i> if the need arises does not constitute an <i>ongoing support relationship</i>.</p> <p>This definition is used to help establish whether a person is considered a <i>client</i> for the purposes of the National Data Collection.</p>

<b>Recurrent allocations</b>	<p>Amounts of money specifically allocated during the reporting period by a State or Territory department either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to SAAP <i>agencies</i> to fund salaries and associated on-costs, and ongoing operating costs; or</li> <li>• for use by each State or Territory for such purposes as training, research, evaluation, administration, and asset replacement or purchase.</li> </ul>
<b>Referral</b>	<p>For the purposes of the National Data Collection, a formal referral process—not simply the provision of information. A (formal) <i>referral</i> occurs when a SAAP <i>agency</i> contacts another organisation and that organisation accepts the person concerned for an appointment or interview. A <i>referral</i> has not been provided if the person is not accepted for an appointment or interview.</p>
<b>Support</b>	<p>Assistance, other than <i>supported accommodation</i>, provided to a client as part of an <i>ongoing support relationship</i> between a SAAP <i>agency</i> and the <i>client</i>. For the purposes of the National Data Collection, <i>support</i> also includes contact with, or work on behalf of, a <i>client</i> for generally more than 1 hour on a given day. <i>Support</i> may be provided to the <i>client</i> individually or in group sessions.</p>
<b>Support period</b>	<p>A <i>support period</i> commences when a <i>client</i> begins to receive <i>support</i> and/or <i>supported accommodation</i> from a SAAP <i>agency</i>. The <i>support period</i> is considered to finish when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <i>client</i> ends the relationship with the <i>agency</i>; or</li> <li>• the <i>agency</i> ends the relationship with the <i>client</i>.</li> </ul> <p>If it is not clear whether the <i>agency</i> or the <i>client</i> has ended the relationship, the <i>support period</i> is assumed to have ended if no assistance has been provided to the <i>client</i> for a period of 1 month. In such a case, the date the <i>support period</i> ended is 1 month after the last contact with the <i>client</i>.</p>
<b>Supported accommodation</b>	<p>Accommodation paid for, or provided directly by, a SAAP <i>agency</i>. The accommodation may be provided at the <i>agency</i> or may be purchased using SAAP funds—at a motel, for example.</p>