



# Specialist homelessness services 2017–18: South Australia

Homelessness can profoundly affect a person’s mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

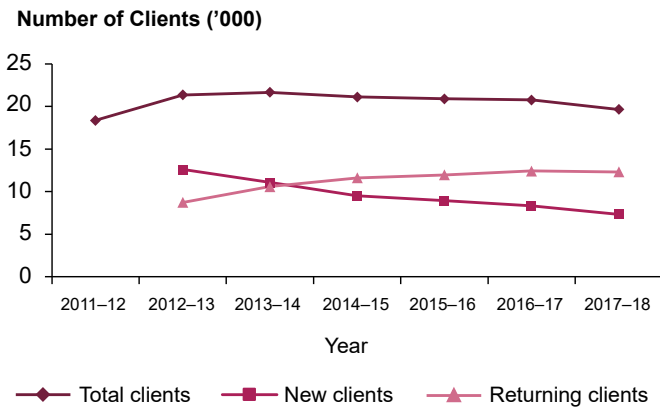
Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) deliver services for specific groups (such as people experiencing domestic and family violence and young people) as well as more generic services for people in housing crisis.

## How many people were assisted?

One in 88 people in South Australia (SA) received homelessness assistance, lower than the national rate (1 in 85). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing crisis (41%, compared with 39% nationally)
- domestic and family violence (33%, compared with 39%)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (26%, compared with 24%).

**Figure 1: Trends in South Australian client numbers**



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data\*\*.

**\*\*Note:** Data for 2011–12 to 2016–17 have been adjusted for non-response. Due to improvements in rates of agency participation and SLK validity, 2017–18 data are not weighted. The removal of weighting does not constitute a break in time series and weighted data from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are comparable with unweighted data for 2017–18. For further information, please refer to the Technical notes.

## Quick facts

- **19,641 clients were assisted**, representing 7% of the national Specialist Homelessness Services population (288,795 total clients).
- **46% were homeless on first presentation**, higher than the national rate (43%).
- **9 in 10 clients (91%) at risk of homelessness** were assisted to maintain housing.
- **6 in 10 clients (57%) who were homeless** were assisted into housing.



**Table 1: South Australia client characteristics, 2017–18**

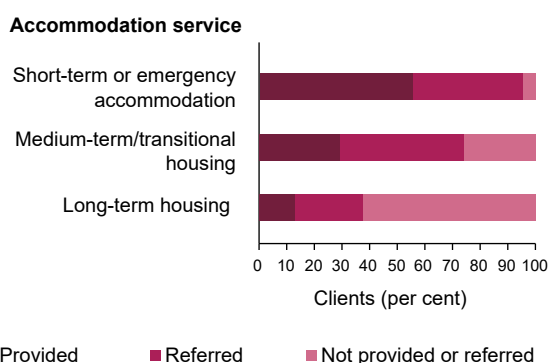
		SA	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	40	39
	Female	60	61
Indigenous (%)		27	25
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	74	62
	Inner regional	8	23
	Outer regional	12	11
	Remote and very remote	5	5
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	26	30
	One parent with child/ren	29	35
	Couple with child/ren	13	12
	Couple without child/ren	6	5
	Other family or group	27	18
Labour force (%)	Employed	10	12
	Unemployed	41	48
	Not in labour force	50	40
Education status (%)	Education/training	23	22
	Not in education/training	77	78
Median length of support (days)		55	39
Median length of accommodation (nights)		25	32
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		22	29

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: SHSC National and SA supplementary tables 2017–18.

## Accommodation services

A smaller proportion of South Australian clients needed accommodation compared with the national SHS population (53% and 56%, respectively).

**Figure 2: South Australian clients, by most needed accommodation type and service provision status, 2017–18**



Source: SHSC 2017–18 SA supplementary table CLIENTS.27.

## Client groups of interest

While the overall service use rate was lower in South Australia in 2017–18 than the previous year, higher rates were reported for a number of priority groups such as mental health and disability client groups.

**Table 2: Client rate per 10,000, by priority group**

	South Australia		Australia	
	2016–17	2017–18	2016–17	2017–18
All clients	121.3	114.0	119.1	117.4
Indigenous	1,090.0	1,043.0	813.9	802.7
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	24.1	22.2	17.4	17.6
Older people (55 and over)	6.8	6.2	9.7	9.8
Domestic and family violence	43.7	40.6	47.4	49.2
Disability	3.9	4.8	4.5	3.2
Mental health	29.6	30.7	32.0	32.9
Exiting custodial arrangements	4.2	4.4	3.4	3.4
Leaving care	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.8
Children on protection orders	0.9	1.0	3.6	3.5
Drug/alcohol use	10.4	10.4	11.3	11.0

### Notes

- Crude rates are used except for Indigenous rates which are directly age-standardised (see online technical information).
- Minor adjustments in rates may occur between publications reflecting revision of the estimated resident population by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Sources: SHSC National and SA supplementary tables 2016–17 and 2017–18\*\*.

## Housing outcomes

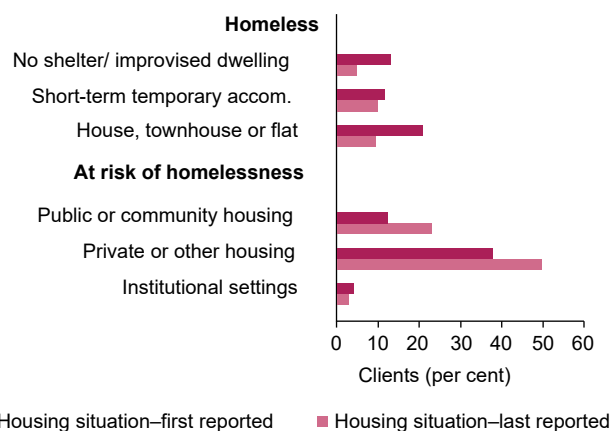
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support had ended and housing situation known.

Of the nearly 4,500 clients who began support homeless, 57% (2,600 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, 3 in 10 (around 800 clients) were housed in public or community housing, while 6 in 10 (around 1,700 clients) were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 5,700 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness, 91% were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- about 1,000 (74%) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 17% (nearly 250) were assisted into private or other housing
- over 3,100 (78%) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 12% (nearly 480) were assisted into public or community housing.

**Figure 3: South Australian clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2017–18**



Source: SHSC 2017–18 SA supplementary table CLIENTS.22.

### More information

More information is available from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-2017-18/contents/contents>.

Specific information on South Australia is available from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-2017-18/data>

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019

Any enquiries about copyright and/or this fact sheet should be directed to: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, Tel: (02) 6244 1000, Email: <info@aihw.gov.au>.