



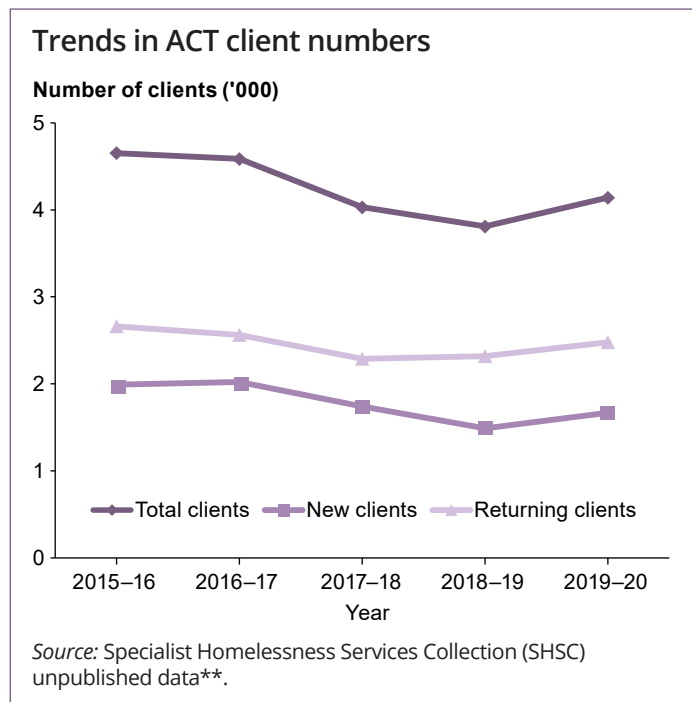
Specialist homelessness services 2019–20: Australian Capital Territory

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 family and domestic violence and young people) as well as more generic services for people in housing crisis.

How many people were assisted?

One in 103 people in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) received homelessness assistance, lower than the national rate (1 in 87). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- financial difficulties (50%, compared with 41% nationally)
- housing affordability stress (47%, compared with 29%)
- housing crisis (45% compared with 34%).



Quick facts

- 4,100 clients were assisted in the ACT—around 1% of the national SHS population (290,500 total clients).
- Of ACT clients:
 - 54% were homeless on first presentation, higher than the national rate (43%).
 - 9 in 10 (89%) who were at risk of homelessness were assisted into housing.
 - Almost half (46%) who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Client characteristics, 2019–20

	ACT	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	40
	Female	60
Indigenous (%)	16	27
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	61
	Inner regional	23
	Outer regional	11
	Remote and very remote	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	30
	One parent with child/ren	34
	Couple with child/ren	13
	Couple without child/ren	5
Labour force (%)	Other family or group	18
	Employed	13
	Unemployed	51
Education status (%)	Not in labour force	37
	Education/training	21
	Not in education/training	79
Median length of support (days)	103	43
Median nights of accommodation	125	28
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)	37	30

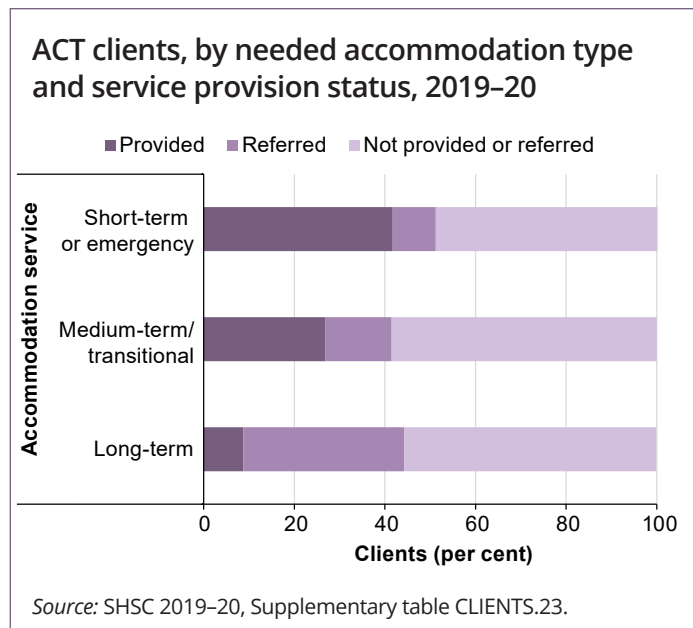
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Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SHSC supplementary tables 2019–20.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of clients in the ACT than nationally needed accommodation (81% and 59%, respectively).



Client groups of interest

The overall client rate in the ACT was higher in 2019–20 than the previous year, with higher rates reported for most client groups of interest apart from young people presenting alone, children on protection orders and clients leaving care.

Clients per 10,000, by interest groups

	ACT		Australia	
	2018–19	2019–20	2018–19	2019–20
All clients	90.6	97.1	116.2	114.5
Indigenous	679.3	708.9	782.0	798.3
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	18.4	18.1	17.2	16.7
Older people (55 and over)	5.8	6.9	9.7	9.6
Family and domestic violence	30.3	37.9	46.6	47.0
Disability	2.0	2.3	2.9	2.6
Mental health	36.3	40.9	34.6	34.8
Exiting custodial arrangements	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
Leaving care	3.7	3.5	2.7	2.7
Children on protection orders	3.1	2.3	3.7	3.5
Drug/alcohol use	11.8	13.3	11.2	11.2

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 Supplementary tables 2018–19 to 2019–20.

Housing outcomes

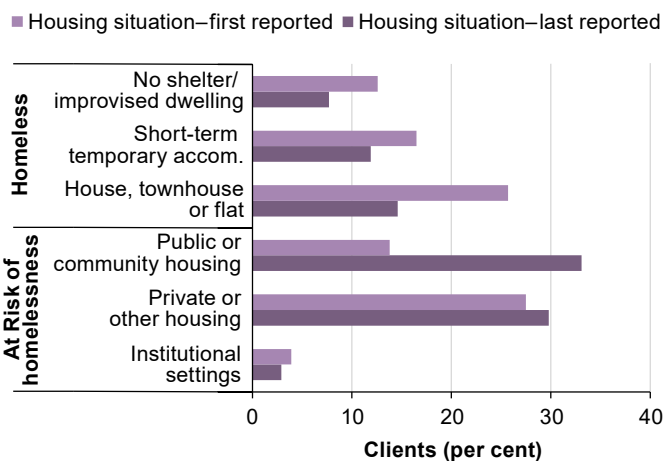
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the over 1,100 clients who began support homeless in 2019–20, 46% (500 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, 63% (or around 300 clients) were housed in public or community housing, while more than 1 in 3 (34% or around 170 clients) were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 1,000 clients who began support housed, but at risk of homelessness in 2019–20, almost 9 in 10 (89% or 860 clients) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- 8 in 10 (84% or 250) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 7% (20 clients) were assisted into private or other housing.
- 7 in 10 (70% or 410) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 18% (100 clients) were assisted into public or community housing.

ACT clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2019–20



****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 onwards 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 onwards. For further information, refer to the Technical notes.

More information

More information on ACT and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report](#).