



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

# Homeless SAAP clients with a disability 2002–03

# Bulletin 23

## Introduction

It is estimated that around 20% of the general Australian population had a reported disability that restricted their everyday activities (ABS 2004). This equated to 3,958,300 people. A further 4,149,000 (21%) reported a long-term health condition that did not restrict their everyday activities. This bulletin provides an overview of assistance given to people with a disability by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).

SAAP is the major response by the Australian Government and state and territory governments to resolve and prevent homelessness. The primary aim of SAAP is to assist people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence.

This is the third thematic report from the SAAP National Data Collection focusing on a specific client group. In this report the SAAP ‘disability’ client group is compared to the ‘non-disability’ client group to examine their characteristics and needs and the ability of SAAP to support homeless people with disabilities. The two groups are examined by profile, main reason for seeking assistance, whether their needs are being met, and the outcomes that they achieve with help from SAAP. Data on the extent to which homeless people with disabilities are not approaching SAAP agencies or how many are being turned away are not available.

For key definitions used in this bulletin, please refer to the publication *Homeless People in SAAP: SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report 2002–03* (AIHW 2003a).

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