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Specialist homelessness services 2021–22: Tasmania

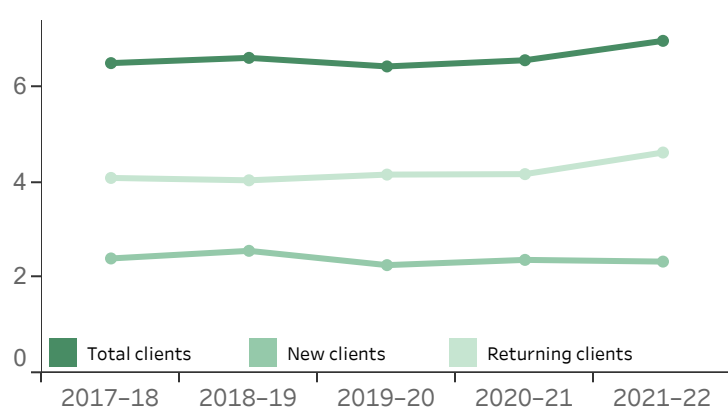
Homelessness can profoundly affect a person’s mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist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

In Tasmania one in 81 people received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (one in 94). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing crisis (48%, compared with 37% nationally)
- housing affordability stress (45%, compared with 31%)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (41%, compared with 26%).

Figure.1 Trends in Tas client numbers
Number of clients ('000)



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data.

Quick facts

- 7,000 clients were assisted in Tasmania – 3% of the national SHS population (272,700 total clients).

Of Tas clients:

- 56% of clients were homeless on first presentation, higher than the national rate (44%).
- Around 4 in 5 (81%) clients at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- 2 in 5 (40%) clients who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Table 1: Tasmania client characteristics, 2021–22

		Tas	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	43	40
	Female	57	60
Indigenous (%)		16	28
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	1	60
	Inner regional	88	23
	Outer regional	11	11
	Remote and very remote	<1	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	44	32
	One parent with child/ren	28	34
	Couple with child/ren	7	12
	Couple without child/ren	5	5
	Other family or group	16	18
Labour force (%)	Employed	12	15
	Not employed	47	52
	Not in labour force	41	33
Education status (%)	Education/training	15	21
	Not in education/training	85	79
Median length of support (days)		86	53
Median number of nights accommodated		56	32
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		50	31

Notes:

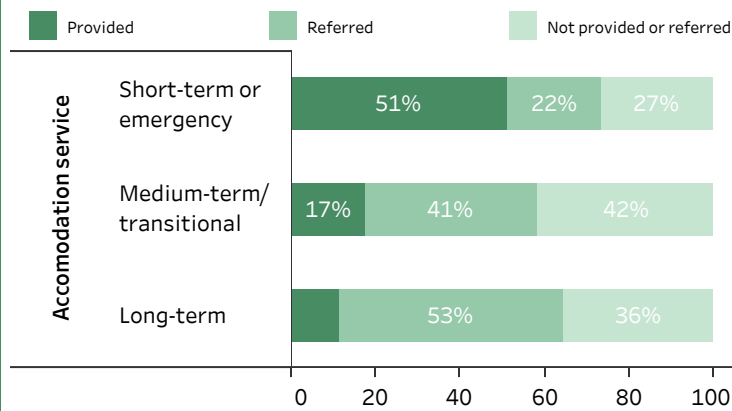
1. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
2. . . not applicable

Sources: SHSC supplementary tables 2021–22.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of clients in Tasmania than nationally needed accommodation (93% and 60%, respectively).

Figure 2: Tas clients, by most needed accommodation type and service provision status, 2021–22



Source: SHSC 2021–22, supplementary table CLIENTS.24.

Client groups of interest

The overall client rate was higher in Tas in 2021–22 than the previous year, with higher rates reported for all client groups except young people, clients exiting custodial arrangements and clients with drug/alcohol use.

Table.2 Tas clients per 10,000, by interest groups

	Tas		Australia	
	2020–21	2021–22	2020–21	2021–22
All clients	116.5	122.9	108.5	106.2
Indigenous clients	332.9	364.7	810.6	798.7
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	26.1	24.6	16.2	15.3
Older people (55 and over)	12.5	16.8	9.3	9.9
Family and domestic violence	30.1	30.7	45.3	41.9
Clients with disability	3.4	3.4	2.7	2.8
Clients with mental health issues	59.7	62.0	34.4	33.2
Exiting custodial arrangements	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.5
Leaving care	4.5	5.4	2.5	2.3
Children on protection orders	1.5	1.6	3.2	3.1
Problematic drug/alcohol use	13.6	13.2	10.6	9.1

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 historical supplementary tables 2021–22.

Housing outcomes

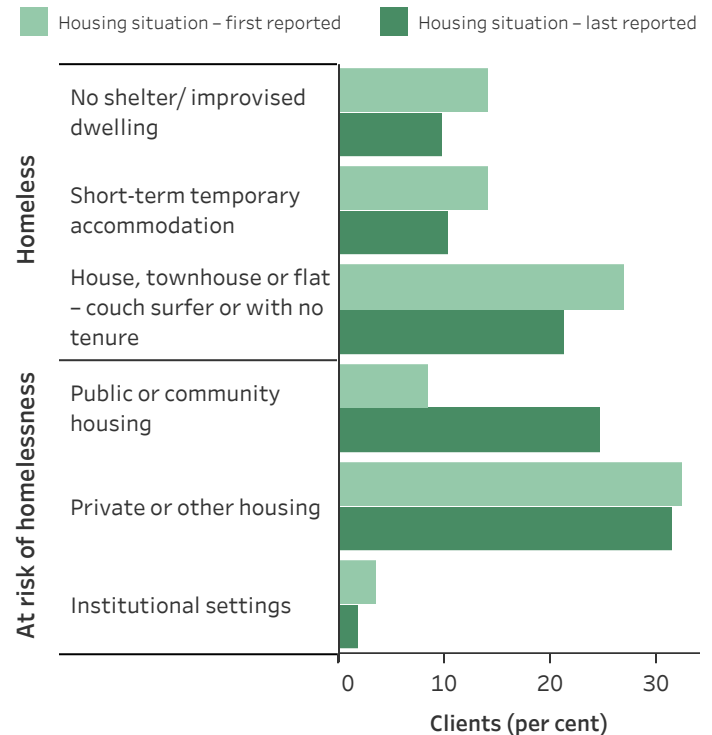
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the around 2,200 clients who began support homeless in 2021–22, 40% (900 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, around 520 clients were housed in public or community housing, while around 355 clients were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 1,800 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness in 2021–22, around four in five (81% or 1,500) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- just over three-quarters (77% or 265) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 35 were assisted into private or other housing.
- two-thirds (66% or 870) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 195 were assisted into public or community housing.

Figure 3: Tas clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2021–22



Source: SHSC 2021–22 supplementary table CLIENTS.32.

More information

More information on Tasmania and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021–22](#).