



NSW

Vic

Qld

WA

SA

Tas

ACT

NT

Specialist homelessness services 2021–22: Western Australia

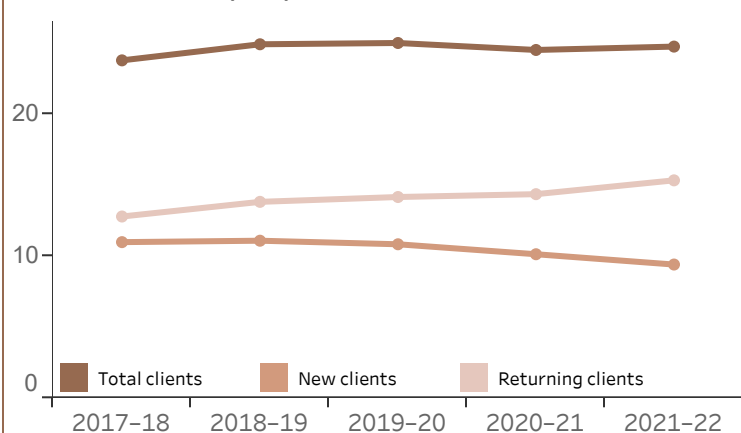
Homelessness can profoundly affect a person’s mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) deliver services for specific groups (such as people experiencing family and domestic violence and young people) as well as more generic services for people in housing crisis.

How many people were assisted?

In Western Australia one in 111 people received homelessness assistance, lower than the national rate (one in 94). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- family and domestic violence (39%, compared with 37% nationally)
- financial difficulties (34%, compared with 39%)
- housing affordability stress (24%, compared with 31%).

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



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data.

Quick facts

- 24,700 clients were assisted in Western Australia – 9% of the national SHS population (272,700 total clients).

Of WA clients:

- 41% of clients were homeless on first presentation, lower than the national rate (44%).
- 9 in 10 (91%) clients at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- Just less than one-quarter (24%) of clients who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Table 1: Western Australia client characteristics, 2021–22

		WA	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	36	40
	Female	65	60
Indigenous (%)		50	28
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	49	60
	Inner regional	13	23
	Outer regional	12	11
	Remote and very remote	26	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	22	32
	One parent with child/ren	32	34
	Couple with child/ren	14	12
	Couple without child/ren	5	5
	Other family or group	27	18
Labour force (%)	Employed	14	15
	Not employed	63	52
	Not in labour force	23	33
Education status (%)	Education/training	19	21
	Not in education/training	81	79
Median length of support (days)		22	53
Median number of nights accommodated		8	32
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		47	31

Notes:

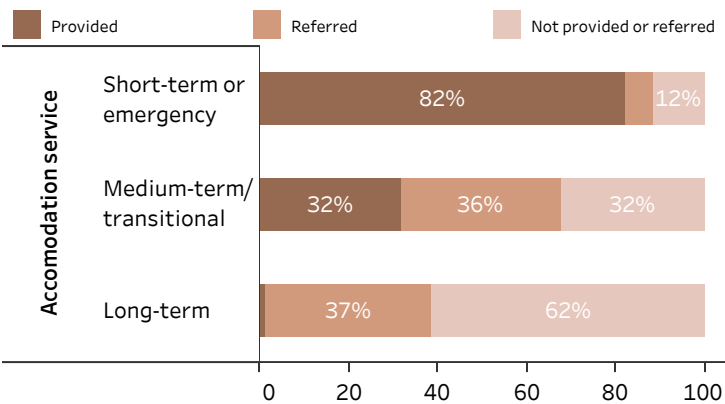
1. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
2. . . not applicable

Sources: SHSC supplementary tables 2021–22.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of clients in Western Australia than nationally needed accommodation (66% and 60%, respectively).

Figure 2: WA 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 the same in WA in 2021–22 as the previous year, with lower or similar rates reported for most client groups

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

	WA		Australia	
	2020–21	2021–22	2020–21	2021–22
All clients	90.0	89.8	108.5	106.2
Indigenous clients	1,110.7	1,098.6	810.6	798.7
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	10.6	10.0	16.2	15.3
Older people (55 and over)	8.6	9.8	9.3	9.9
Family and domestic violence	37.2	36.8	45.3	41.9
Clients with disability	1.3	1.5	2.7	2.8
Clients with mental health issues	22.6	21.7	34.4	33.2
Exiting custodial arrangements	1.7	1.5	3.5	3.5
Leaving care	1.7	1.6	2.5	2.3
Children on protection orders	2.4	2.2	3.2	3.1
Problematic drug/alcohol use	11.1	9.9	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

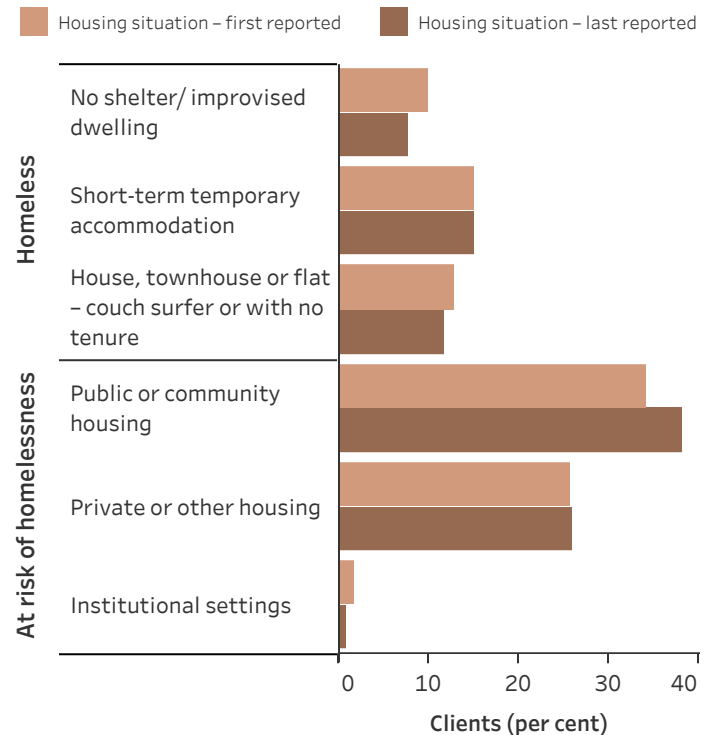
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the around 6,400 clients who began support homeless in 2021–22, 24% (1,600 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, around 880 clients were housed in public or community housing, while around 630 clients were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 10,400 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness in 2021–22, nine out of ten (91% or 9,400) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- 9 in 10 (91% or 5,200) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 140 were assisted into private or other housing.
- around 4 in 5 (82% or 3,600) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 290 were assisted into public or community housing.

Figure 3: WA 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 Western Australia and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021–22](#).