



Specialist homelessness services 2017–18: 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 domestic and family violence and young people) as well as more generic services for people in housing crisis.

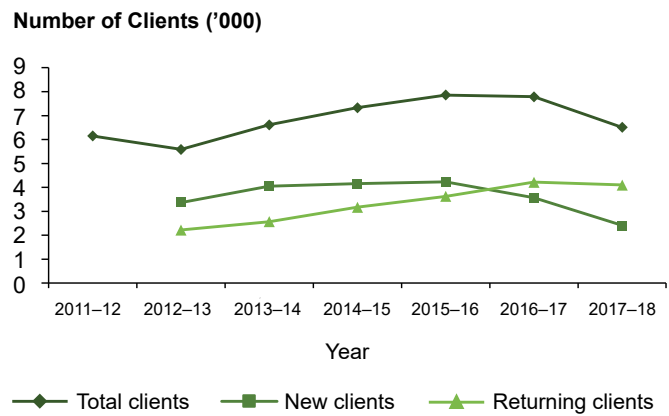
How many people were assisted?

One in 80 people in Tasmania (Tas) received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (1 in 85). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing crisis (58%, compared with 39% nationally)
- financial difficulties (40%, compared with 39%)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (39%, compared with 24%).

On average, 28 requests for assistance went unmet each day.

Figure 1: Trends in Tasmanian 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Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data**.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

- **6,508 clients** were assisted by services located in Tasmania, representing 2% of the national Specialist Homelessness Services population (288,795 total clients).
- **53% were homeless on first presentation**, higher than the national rate (43%).
- **84% of clients at risk of homelessness** were assisted to maintain housing.
- **Almost half (46%) of clients who were homeless** were assisted into housing.



Table 1: Tasmanian client characteristics, 2017–18

		Tas	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	46	39
	Female	54	61
Indigenous (%)	Major cities	2	62
	Inner regional	88	23
	Outer regional	10	11
	Remote and very remote	—	5
Remoteness (%)	Living alone	41	30
	One parent with child/ren	29	35
	Couple with child/ren	9	12
	Couple without child/ren	4	5
Living arrangements (%)	Other family or group	17	18
	Employed	7	12
	Unemployed	45	48
Labour force (%)	Not in labour force	48	40
	Education/training	18	22
Education status (%)	Not in education/training	82	78
	Median length of support (days)	69	39
Median length of accommodation (nights)		36	32
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		46	29

— nil or rounded to zero

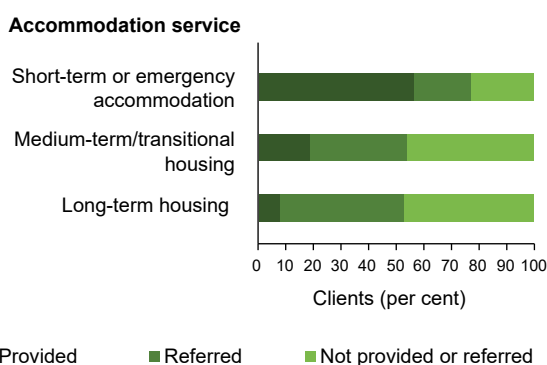
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: SHSC National and Tas supplementary tables 2017–18.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of Tasmanian clients needed accommodation compared with the national SHS population (92% and 56%, respectively).

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



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

Client groups of interest

Most service use rates in Tasmania were lower in 2017–18 compared with the previous year, with higher rates reported for some priority groups, including young people presenting alone.

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

	Tasmania		Australia	
	2016–17	2017–18	2016–17	2017–18
All clients	150.5	124.9	119.1	117.4
Indigenous	377.4	326.6	813.9	802.7
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	22.9	26.1	17.4	17.6
Older people (55 and over)	10.7	10.9	9.7	9.8
Domestic and family violence	43.9	35.0	47.4	49.2
Disability	9.7	4.8	4.5	3.2
Mental health	56.1	56.0	32.0	32.9
Exiting custodial arrangements	4.6	4.5	3.4	3.4
Leaving care	5.0	5.1	2.9	2.8
Children on protection orders	3.0	1.9	3.6	3.5
Drug/alcohol use	16.3	16.3	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 Tas supplementary tables 2016–17 and 2017–18**.

Housing outcomes

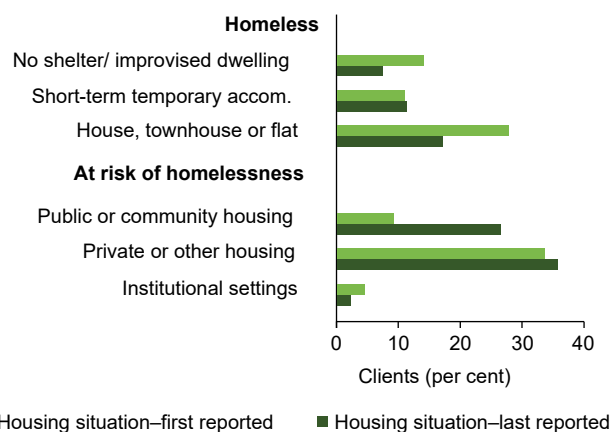
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support had ended and housing situation known.

Of the nearly 2,000 clients who began support homeless, 46% (over 900 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, 49% (or around 450 clients) were housed in public or community housing, while 48% (or around 450 clients) were housed in private or other housing.

Of the almost 1,900 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness, 84% were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- 270 (70%) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 16% (60 clients) were assisted into private or other housing
- 860 (64%) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 21% (around 280) were assisted into public or community housing.

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



Source: SHSC 2017–18 Tas 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 Tasmania is available from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-2017-18/data>

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