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## Specialist homelessness services 2022–23: South Australia

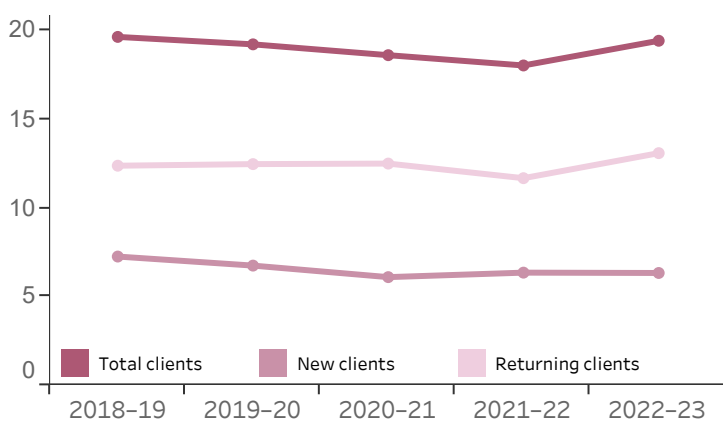
Homelessness can profoundly affect a person's mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist 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 South Australia one in 94 people received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (one in 95). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing crisis (56%, compared with 38% nationally)
- family and domestic violence (25%, compared with 36%)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (20%, compared with 27%).

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



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data.

### Quick facts

- 19,400 clients were assisted in South Australia – 7% of the national SHS population (273,600 total clients).

### Of SA clients:

- 49% of clients were homeless on first presentation, higher than the national rate (47%).
- 9 in 10 (89%) clients at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- Just under half (45%) of clients who were homeless were assisted into housing.

**Table 1: South Australia client characteristics, 2022–23**

		SA	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	41	41
	Female	59	59
Indigenous (%)		26	29
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	77	60
	Inner regional	5	22
	Outer regional	14	12
	Remote and very remote	4	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	31	33
	One parent with child/ren	31	35
	Couple with child/ren	12	11
	Couple without child/ren	6	5
	Other family or group	21	17
Labour force (%)	Employed	15	17
	Not employed	47	52
	Not in labour force	38	31
Education status (%)	Education/training	22	20
	Not in education/training	78	80
Median length of support (days)		62	56
Median number of nights accommodated		8	31
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		17	31

Notes:

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

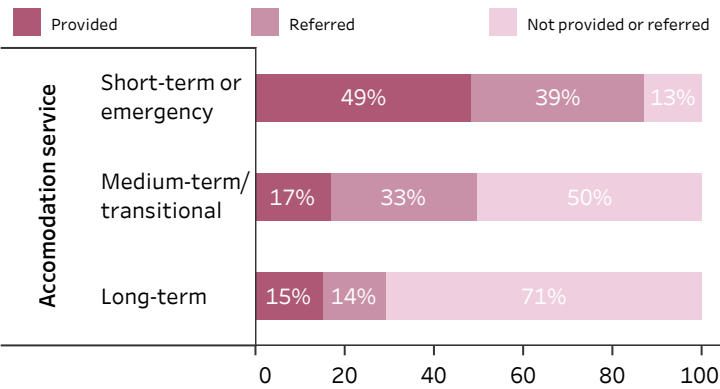
Sources: SHSC supplementary tables 2022–23.

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## Accommodation services

A smaller proportion of clients in South Australia than nationally needed accommodation (49% and 60%, respectively).

**Figure 2: SA clients, by most needed accommodation type and service provision status, 2022–23**



Source: SHSC 2022–23, supplementary table CLIENTS.24.

## Client groups of interest

The overall client rate was higher in South Australia in 2022–23 than the previous year, with higher or similar rates reported for all client groups.

**Table.2 SA clients per 10,000, by interest groups**

	SA		Australia	
	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23
All clients	100.0	106.6	106.2	105.2
Indigenous clients	925.6	925.0	798.7	812.5
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	17.0	16.7	15.3	14.7
Older people (55 and over)	7.1	8.3	9.9	10.5
Family and domestic violence	29.1	29.0	41.9	40.1
Clients with disability	4.7	4.5	2.8	2.9
Clients with mental health issues	31.6	31.9	33.2	32.8
Exiting custodial arrangements	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5
Leaving care	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.4
Children on protection orders	0.7	0.7	3.1	3.0
Problematic drug/alcohol use	8.3	8.0	9.1	9.0

### 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 historical supplementary tables 2022–23.

## Housing outcomes

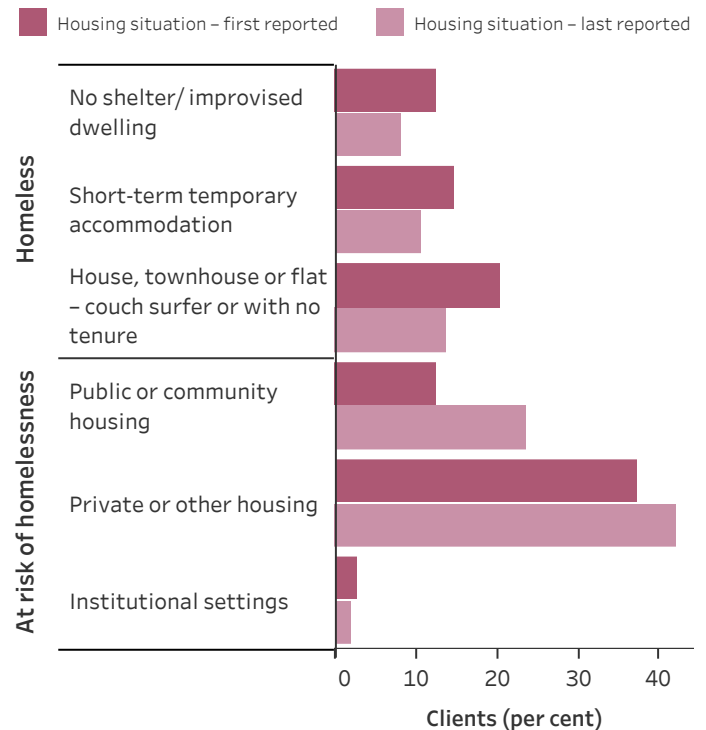
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the around 4,800 clients who began support homeless in 2022–23, 45% (2,100 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, around 860 clients were housed in public or community housing, while around 1,200 clients were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 5,300 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness in 2022–23, nine out of ten (89% or 4,700) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- around 4 in 5 (83% or 1,000) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 115 were assisted into private or other housing.
- just over three-quarters (77% or 2,900) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 425 were assisted into public or community housing.

**Figure 3: SA clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2022–23**



Source: SHSC 2022–23 supplementary table CLIENTS.32.

### More information

More information on South Australia and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23](#).