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Specialist homelessness services 2023–24: Tasmania

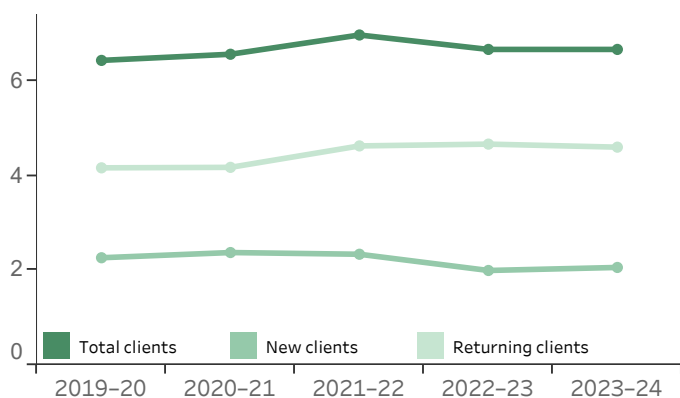
Homelessness can profoundly affect a person’s mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist 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 86 people received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (one in 95). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing affordability stress (50%, compared with 36% nationally)
- housing crisis (48%, compared with 37%)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (44%, compared with 27%).

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



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data.

Quick facts

- 6,700 clients were assisted in Tasmania – 2% of the national SHS population (280,100 total clients).

Of Tas clients:

- 60% of clients were homeless on first presentation, higher than the national rate (48%).
- Around 4 in 5 (80%) clients at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- 2 in 5 (42%) clients who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Table 1: Tasmania client characteristics, 2023–24

		Tas	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	45	40
	Female	55	60
Indigenous (%)		19	29
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	1	61
	Inner regional	78	22
	Outer regional	21	11
	Remote and very remote	<1	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	48	34
	One parent with child/ren	28	34
	Couple with child/ren	5	10
	Couple without child/ren	4	5
	Other family or group	15	17
Labour force (%)	Employed	12	17
	Not employed	42	51
	Not in labour force	46	32
Education status (%)	Education/training	15	20
	Not in education/training	85	80
Median length of support (days)		87	58
Median number of nights accommodated		67	33
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		53	29

Notes:

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

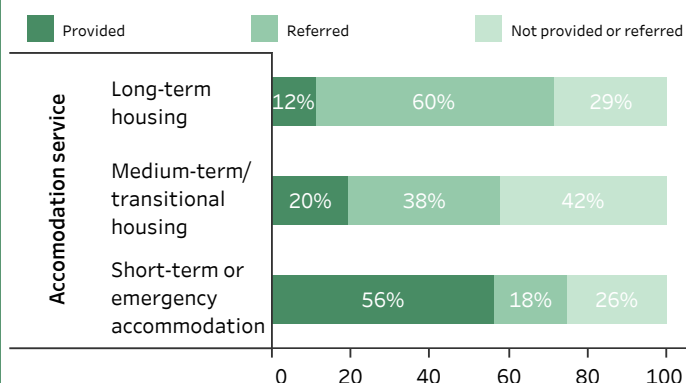
n.p. Data in some cells have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

Sources: SHSC supplementary tables 2023–24.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of clients in Tasmania than nationally needed accommodation (94% and 58%, respectively).

Figure 2: Tas clients, by most needed accommodation type and service provision status, 2023–24



Source: SHSC 2023–24, supplementary table CLIENTS.24.

Client groups of interest

The overall client rate was lower in Tas in 2023–24 than the previous year, with lower or similar rates reported for most client groups except for clients with a disability and Indigenous clients.

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

	Tas		Australia	
	2022–23	2023–24	2022–23	2023–24
All clients	116.8	116.3	105.2	105.1
Indigenous clients	359.4	378.1	812.5	839.6
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	228.5	231.7	120.8	115.7
Older people (55 and over)	49.0	52.9	36.6	38.8
Family and domestic violence	31.4	31.0	40.0	41.1
Clients with disability	3.1	3.7	2.9	3.1
Clients with mental health issues	66.5	64.8	37.3	37.5
Exiting custodial arrangements	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8
Leaving care	5.2	4.8	2.4	2.3
Children on protection orders	8.3	7.9	13.8	14.4
Problematic drug/alcohol use	15.0	15.6	10.3	10.2

Notes

1. Crude rates are used except for Indigenous rates which are directly age-standardised (see online technical information).
2. 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 2023–24.

Housing outcomes

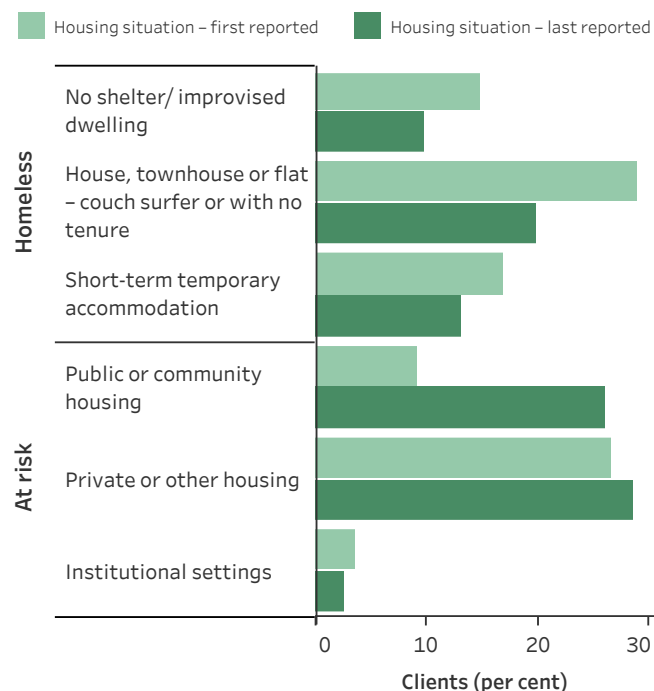
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the around 2,500 clients who began support homeless in 2023–24, 42% (1,100 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, around 590 clients were housed in public or community housing, while around 440 clients were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 1,600 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness in 2023–24, around four in five (80% or 1,300) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- just under three-quarters (74% or 280) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 28 were assisted into private or other housing.
- two-thirds (63% or 700) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 180 were assisted into public or community housing.

Figure 3: Tas clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2023–24



Source: SHSC 2023–24 supplementary table CLIENTS.32.

More information

More information on Tasmania and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2023–24](#).