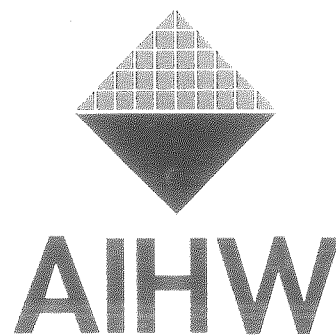# Housing needs of homeless persons

*An analysis of the 1997–98
SAAP National Data Collection*

Hongyan Wang
David Wilson

AIHW

Housing needs of homeless persons

An analysis of the 1997–98
SAAP National Data Collection

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Australians by informing community discussion and decision making through national leadership in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair
Professor Janice Reid

Director
Dr Richard Madden

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6244 1000

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Summary of findings and recommendations

Summary of findings

Accommodation provided to SAAP clients

Accommodated support periods by State and Territory and target groups

In 1997–98 of the 156,589 support periods reported by participating agencies, 108,139 (69%) received some form of accommodation support. Figure S1 shows that 43% of accommodated support periods were with agencies located in New South Wales, followed by Queensland with 17% and Victoria with 15%.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Figure S1: Accommodated support periods, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)
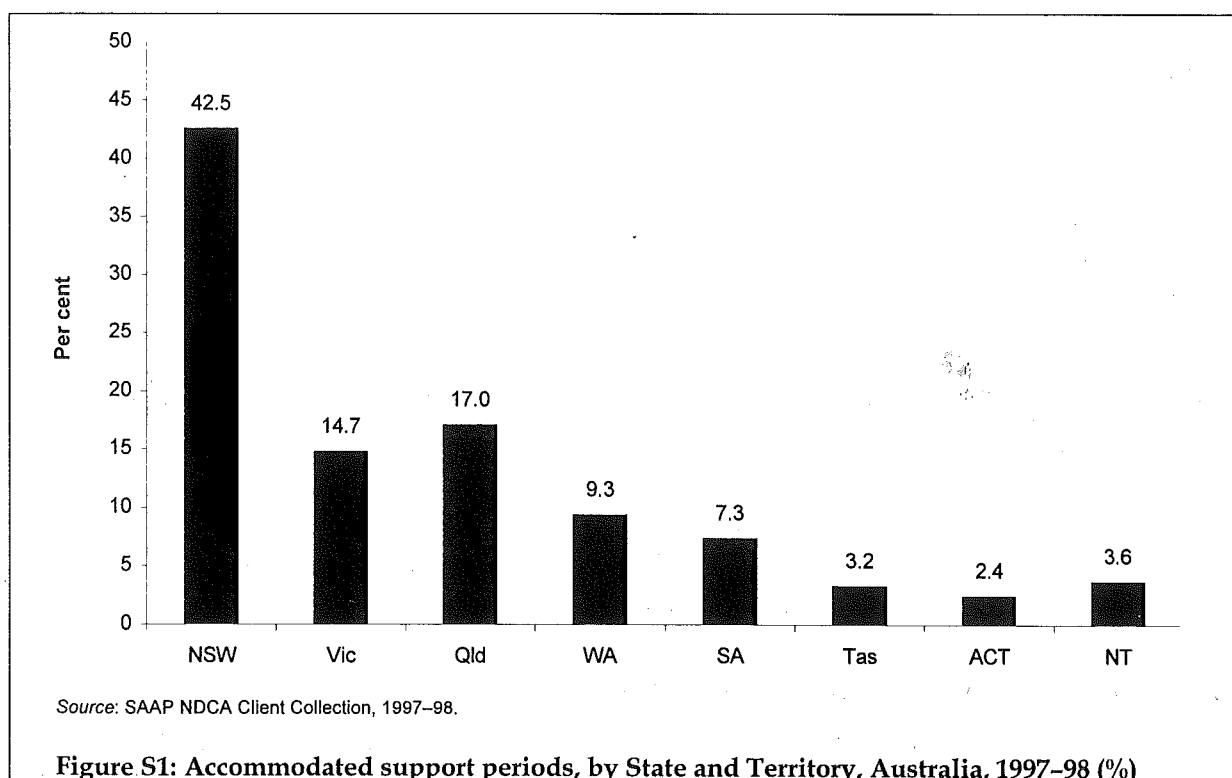
Figure S2 shows that 35% of all accommodated support periods were provided by agencies targeting single men, followed by women escaping domestic violence (DV) with 21%, and young people with 20%.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Figure S2: Accommodated support periods, by primary target group, Australia, 1997–98 (%)
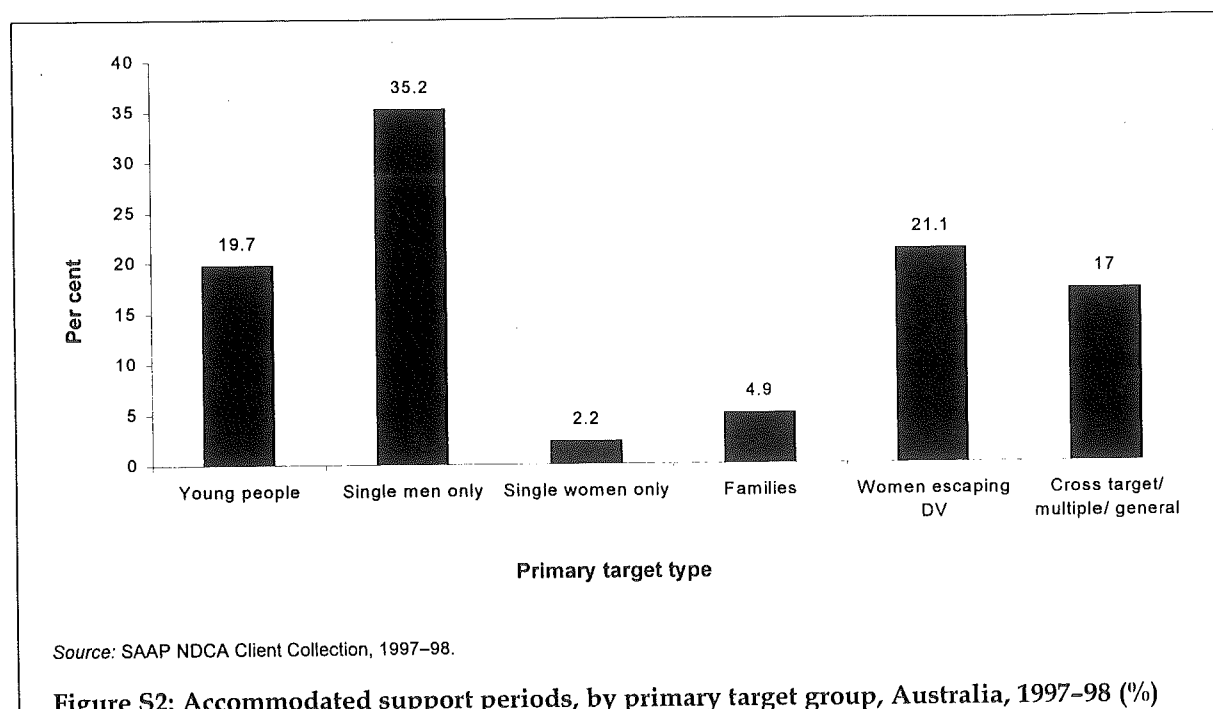
Type of SAAP accommodation provided by SAAP agencies

In 1997–98 the majority of clients provided with accommodation were placed in crisis or short-term accommodation, representing 88% of all accommodated support periods — this proportion ranged from a low of 73% in Victoria to a high of 95% in the Northern Territory. In 12% of all accommodated support periods, medium- to long-term accommodation was provided — this proportion was more than double in Victoria (27%) and less than half in the Northern Territory (5%).

Circumstances of SAAP clients seeking housing/accommodation assistance

The need for housing and accommodation services was the most frequently expressed need of SAAP clients in 1997–98, with 123,988 (79%) of all support periods reporting this type of need. This includes SAAP accommodation assistance as well as assistance in obtaining short-term accommodation or independent housing.

Circumstances of housing before support

As Table S1 shows, nearly half of all SAAP support periods (49%) related to clients living in insecure housing or accommodation before support. This comprised living in SAAP-funded accommodation (22%), car, tent, park, street or squat (15%), in institutional accommodation (5%), or in rooming houses, hostels, hotels or other non-SAAP accommodation (7%). In contrast 11% of support periods represented SAAP clients who were living in 'secure' housing — that is, clients owning or purchasing (3%), in public housing (6%) or community housing (2%). A further 30% were living in private rental housing including renting caravans or boarding in private homes.

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Table S1: Support periods in which clients required housing/accommodation assistance, the type of housing/accommodation before support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/accommodation before support	Australia
SAAP accommodation	21.8
Non-SAAP emergency	0.8
Renting free	10.7
Private rental	29.9
Public housing	5.7
Community housing	2.2
Owner-occupied	2.7
Car/tent/park/street/squat	14.8
Institutional setting	4.9
Other	6.6
Total	*100.0*
Total number	**91,708**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,322
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,380
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 26,578
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Main reasons for seeking assistance

Reasons for seeking assistance are given for about one-half of all accommodated support periods. The two main reasons for seeking assistance were actually non-accommodation-related — domestic violence, representing 23%, and family breakdown with 17% (Table S2). Accommodation-related reasons included eviction (16%) and financial difficulty (12%).

The main reasons SAAP clients sought assistance varied also by the status of housing or accommodation tenure before support. As mentioned above domestic violence is the main reason for seeking support, in particular among home owner occupiers (65%), tenants of community housing (43%) and public housing (43%). It is less so among persons previously renting privately (24%) and among emergency or related housing tenants (about 20%). In contrast financial difficulties were rated as major reasons by persons previously living in rooming houses, hostels or hotels (27%) and persons living in a car, tent, park, street or squat (27%). Eviction as the main reason was higher among persons previously living as private renters (19%) and family breakdown reasons were highest among persons previously renting free (34%).

Table S2: Support periods in which clients required housing/accommodation assistance, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	Australia
Accommodation-related reasons	
Financial difficulty	12.4
Eviction	15.5
Left institution	3.4
Itinerant	10.1
Social reasons	
Family breakdown	16.5
Illness	4.4
Domestic violence	22.5
Abuse	10.7
Other	4.6
Total	*100.0*
Total number	**61,034**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 926
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 10,003
3. 'The main reason for seeking assistance' was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 29,464 records were excluded.
4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form. 42,749
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Public housing

Persons previously living in public housing and who were also seeking housing/accommodation services were more likely to be seeking such assistance for non-housing-related reasons. By far the main reason for seeking assistance was domestic violence (43%), followed by family breakdown (13%) and abuse (12%). Of the accommodation-related reasons usual accommodation becoming unavailable or eviction-related reasons (11%) and financial difficulties (6%) were the main reasons (Table 4.4).

Private rental

In contrast to public renters, persons renting privately before seeking support were more likely to cite accommodation-related matters as their main reason for seeking assistance. In particular usual accommodation becoming unavailable or eviction-related reasons (19%) and financial difficulties (13%) were main contributors. However, domestic violence was still overall the main reason for seeking assistance (24%), while family breakdown accounted for 16% (Table 4.4).

Links between housing assistance and other services

Clients of SAAP housing and accommodation services may, at the same time, require other community support services. On a national basis, the most commonly requested support services, by clients seeking housing or accommodation support, were:

- laundry/shower facilities (65%);
- meals (64%);
- general advice or information (59%);
- transport (39%);
- financial assistance or material aid (32%);
- emotional support or counselling (31%); and
- advocacy on behalf of a client (31%).

Generally New South Wales clients requested non-housing support services less than the national average while the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rates of support service requests.

Requests by SAAP clients for non-housing-related support services also differed by their housing situation before support—on a national basis, counselling and legal assistance/advocacy were the most requested support services, particularly among owners but also for public and private renters. Community housing tenants also reported a need for 'other support services' and culturally appropriate support (21%) (Table 5.2).

The type of support services sought were also related to the main reason for seeking supported assistance—clients who expressed financial difficulty as their main reason for seeking support also tended to request financial-related assistance such as advice/information (65%) and financial assistance/material aid (36%). Clients seeking assistance for eviction and termination-related reasons also expressed a need for advice/information (70%), financial assistance (40%), living skills development (29%) and counselling (20%). Clients leaving emergency accommodation or institutions were likely to seek a variety of support services including specialist services, notably drug/alcohol rehabilitation (20%) and psychiatric services (11%). Victims of domestic violence required services such as domestic violence counselling (66%) and emotional support/other counselling (59%) as well as advice/information (79%), advocacy on behalf of the client (57%) and assistance with legal issues (39%) (Table 5.3).

Housing outcomes following SAAP accommodation support

Housing outcomes for SAAP clients after receiving SAAP accommodation support is also an important issue. Figure S3 shows that in 38% of completed support periods clients moved into private rental market accommodation, while 20% moved on to other SAAP accommodation and 11% moved into public housing accommodation.

Source: Table 6.1.

Figure S3: Completed support periods, clients that received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)
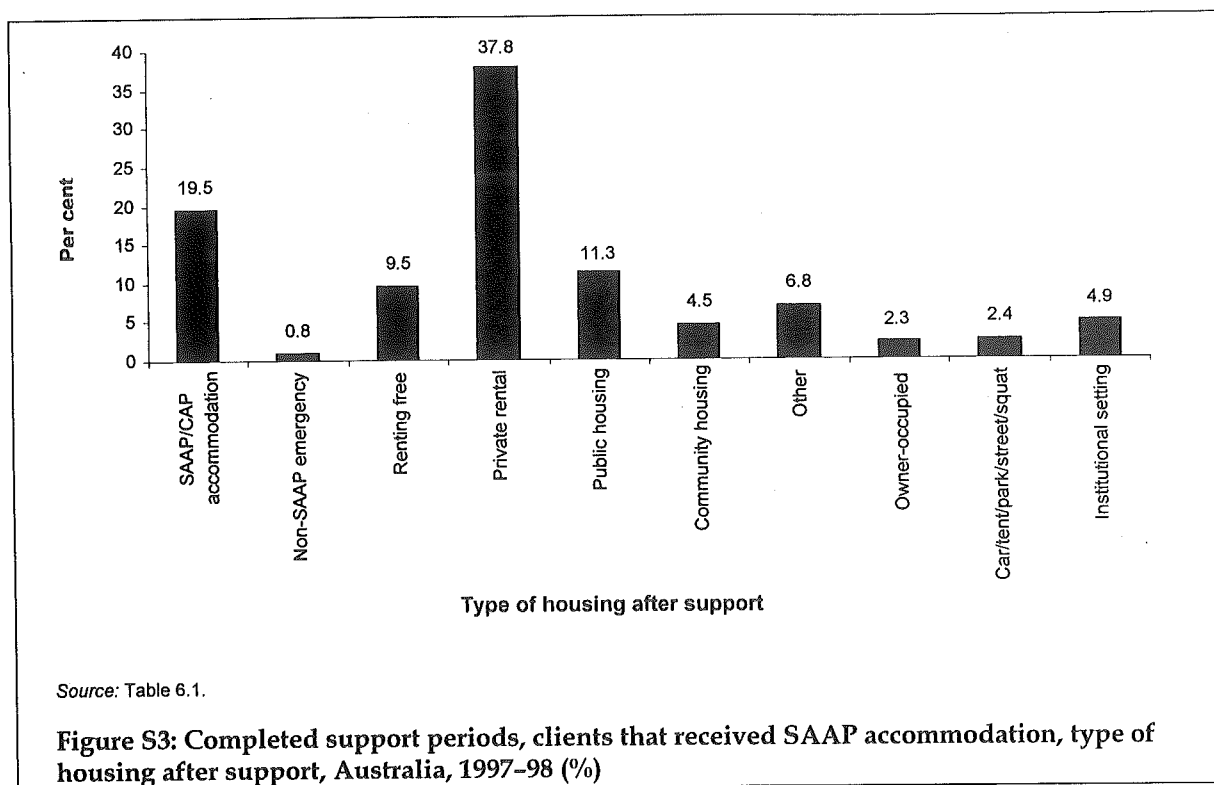
Housing outcome by housing tenure before support

Housing tenure before SAAP accommodation support is an important factor in the type of housing/accommodation the client occupies following support. Firstly there is a strong tendency for clients to return to their original accommodation arrangements—in public housing, community housing and private renters 60%, 68% and 59%, respectively, returned to the same housing tenure type (Table 6.2). Secondly, a significant proportion of clients (41%) previously living in SAAP accommodation returned to similar accommodation. Thirdly, a significant proportion of clients, previously in institutional settings, ended up in SAAP accommodation (15%) and in public housing and community housing (7%).

Housing outcome by main reason of assistance

There is a relationship between the form of accommodation/housing that clients entered immediately following receipt of SAAP accommodation assistance and the main reason they sought accommodation assistance. For instance, clients were more likely to be housed in SAAP accommodation if they presented for reasons such as leaving an institution (28%), psychiatric illness or personal conflicts (24%) and domestic violence and family breakdown (20%) than for reasons of financial difficulties (17%). Of the 8,820 clients who were victims of domestic violence in 1997–98, 16% were accommodated in public housing and a further 8% in community housing—this group was more likely to enter public housing than any other group (Table 6.8).

Recommendations

General issues

The data collected by the SAAP National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) provides the community services sector with a rich source of national annual administrative data on clients and service providers. Currently no program in the housing assistance area has national administrative data of a similar nature. Given this current lack of data in the housing area and the closeness of several issues between the two sectors the potential exists for mutual benefit in aligning data developments in the housing area with SAAP data development at the national level.

It is recommended that a more formal focus be provided on joint data issues through the relevant data management groups of the National Community Services Information Agreement and the National Housing Data Agreement. This is in the areas of:

- **improving data definitions and classifications;**

- **reducing data overlap where providers are jointly funded under separate community services and housing assistance programs; and**

- **achieving better integration of client and outcomes data where assistance is jointly provided under community services and housing assistance programs.**

Data-related issues

Improving the quality of SAAP data for housing analysis

The analysis of the housing-related information contained in the SAAP data collection relied heavily on using data based on accommodation period rather than support period. As the SAAP data collection is not currently designed to provide accommodation based data, this places some restrictions on the usefulness of SAAP data for housing analysis. In the 1997–98 Client Data Collection, there were 108,139 support periods in which clients were accommodated. However, only 56% (60,849) had valid data on length of stay, with 24% (25,849 forms) from high-volume agencies for which the information on length of stay was not collected, and 20% having invalid information recorded for this data item.

It is recommended that the SAAP NDCA consider methods that may improve data quality in these areas as outlined below.

Support period versus accommodation period

The SAAP data collection methodology contains two areas where complete data on accommodation support is not available, which reduced the coverage of the results:

- The lack of accommodation details for high-volume agencies (such as the client's previous accommodation arrangements) reduces the value of the data for examining housing issues. In 1997–98 data, about 69% (108,139) of support periods involved accommodation. Of those accommodated, nearly 29% (31,054) did not have accommodation details since this information was not collected for high-volume agency clients.

It is recommended that some additional data on accommodation details for high-volume agencies be considered by Data Research Advisory Committee (DRAC) to provide a more complete picture of the accommodation details of SAAP clients.

- This project focused on support periods in which accommodation was provided to SAAP clients. The duration of accommodation support may or may not be the same as the duration of the support periods. The project identified and excluded 2,847 support periods that were identified as containing errors in the accommodation date — that is, either accommodation started before support began, or accommodation ended after support ended. In addition, 3,758 forms had missing values on accommodation start or end dates and 490 forms had errors in the length of accommodation or length of support.

It is recommended that clarity be sought from the SAAP NDCA on the correct interpretation of these data and to identify if this is inconsistent with the collection methodology.

The SAAP linkage key (alpha code)

The SAAP linkage key was seen as useful to this project to enable the analysis of repeat use by individual clients, getting an accurate estimate of the number of clients using SAAP accommodation and the number of accommodated support periods per client, and examining repeat accommodation usage patterns.

However, a study on the duplicates in the SAAP linkage key (Karmel 2000) found that there were some problems with the current key, particularly using the SAAP linkage key to examine SAAP usage by clients across a number of financial years. Use of the current key would lead to inaccuracies. This means that too many support periods may be assigned to a small but significant proportion of individuals, suggesting greater repeat use of services than is actually happening.

It is recommended that a more effective linkage key for the SAAP Collection be considered given its importance.

Unmet Demand Data Collection

This project also noted that little useful information on those turned away from SAAP agencies could be derived from the current two-week Unmet Demand Data Collection. In particular the current approach is only able to provide a point in time measure that may change for an individual. After people have made unsuccessful requests for supported accommodation, it is possible that some of them may subsequently receive ongoing accommodation from a SAAP agency. Or they may have their needs met by other means and no longer require SAAP assistance. This prevents estimation of a reliable and accurate number of people with unmet demand for SAAP services.

It is recommended that a review of the Unmet Demand Collection be undertaken, in order to improve the usefulness of information on those turned away from SAAP agencies. To solve the encountered difficulties, changes to the collection instrument may be required.

Policy-related issues

Improving access

This project has already noted various problems encountered by housing authorities in accessing SAAP data. While the SAAP data collection is often identified as a key source of information for examining housing assistance a range of issues reduce its wider use, including access difficulties encountered by some state housing authorities. Access might be improved if agencies were better informed about current data access protocols. In addition, the SAAP Data Research Advisory Committee could be approached formally to identify other procedures to improve access.

As the SAAP data and procedures are relatively new, these issues are to be expected. However, this report notes the potential to significantly improve the usefulness of SAAP data in the housing context by improving accessibility.

It is recommended that the Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement (CSHA) National Housing Data Agreement Management Group (NHDAMG) consider approaches that could be put to the SAAP DRAC to improve access.

Improving the usefulness of SAAP and housing data between sectors

The relationship of priority allocation in public and community housing to SAAP exit points

Further work is needed to quantify the links between SAAP clients and their housing needs and relate this to the availability of housing in both social and private markets. This proposal is in line with the new focus of the 1999–2003 CSHA on priority access to those in greatest need, including persons homeless or exiting a crisis service.

The project was unable to draw together SAAP and housing data to examine how exit points and flexibility of housing responses impact on SAAP accommodation patterns. Similarly it was not possible to use current SAAP and housing data to show the extent of movement between crisis, transition and long-term housing and to identify how long these movements are sustained. The problems encountered in the project in examining these issues were related to the data quality issues noted above and also to the lack of comparable data on related SAAP and housing assistance activity.

It is recommended that the development of data in this area under the CSHA NHDA work program recognise the relationship to data on SAAP exit points. Both the NHDA Management Group and the appropriate SAAP Committee (DRAC or CAD) should communicate on common interest data development issues particularly in relation to alignment of data on priority allocation in public and community housing to SAAP exit points.

Link between housing assistance and other community services

The SAAP data represents a data source to pursue improved information on examining how housing assistance contributes to whole of government outcomes. The data contains information on housing tenures before and after SAAP contact and on the types of financial, health and community services requested or obtained. This presents a potential to examine some of the connections between types of housing assistance and the support services required. The relevance of SAAP data should be highlighted in any national housing research agenda that covers this issue.

It is recommended that the CSHA NHDA and SAAP DRAC consider how SAAP data can be more effectively utilised in examining these across-program issues. This should be in a program planning context as well as research for informing policy.

Repeat users of SAAP services and links to housing assistance

This project attempted to examine relationships between SAAP client characteristics and housing assistance usage paths to produce information on the repeat use of services by an individual client over time.

This information was seen as useful in examining the dynamics of short-term and long-term housing assistance particularly in terms of movement between crisis accommodation and public housing. This particular aspect of the project could not be adequately pursued due to the response and data quality issues noted above. While 3.3% of complete support periods involved two periods of accommodation, and 1% of all complete support periods involved three or more accommodation periods, the effect of non-response is difficult to establish.

It is recommended that the SAAP NDCA consider analysis of accommodation period based data to establish how a more complete picture of the dynamics of SAAP may be obtained.

Summary of recommendations

In order to make the SAAP Data Collection more useful for housing policy use it is recommended that:

1. a more effective SAAP linkage key be developed which will allow more accurate analysis of repeat use in particular across financial years;

2. changes be made to the instrument of the Unmet Demand Data Collection which will allow us to correctly identify the number of people with unmet needs and their characteristics;

3. data quality and validity on the length of accommodation be improved;

4. information on the accommodation be included on high-volume forms;

5. access to the SAAP data for housing authorities be improved.

In addition, it is recommended that extra information be collected in order to examine:

●   the relationship of priority allocation in public and community housing to SAAP exit points;

●   the link between housing assistance and other community service.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

At the May 1998 Australian Housing Research Fund (AHRF)[1] meeting the Commonwealth and several jurisdictions reported on current policy and program research interests related to the examination of the links between homelessness and housing assistance. Similarly, the Research Advisory Committee (RAC)[2] at its June 1998 meeting also recommended that a project be undertaken to examine the links. It identified the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) national data collection as a source of data that could provide useful information for analysis.

The project was conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Family and Community Services and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) signed in March 1999. It was funded jointly by the Department of Family and Community Services (through the AHRF) and the AIHW and carried out at AIHW.

1.2 Variations to the initial proposal

The initial proposal aimed to analyse the 1996–97 and 1997–98 SAAP data collections to produce information on areas such as: housing status on entry, type of agency accessed, client profile, unmet demand, housing outcomes and relationships between the services (support periods) and accommodation (accommodation periods). In addition to these, repeat use of the SAAP accommodation within a 24-month period and characteristics of those repeat users were to be examined as well.

The project encountered a range of data quality issues that were unable to be anticipated before access to and subsequent analysis of the data set. Firstly, the data problems in identifying clients who were accommodated in the 1996–97 data meant that it was not possible to use the 1996–97 data. Secondly, data issues relating to the use of the linkage key, incomplete data coverage and ongoing support periods were identified. Consequently, the proposed analytical outputs in relation to the repeat use of SAAP accommodation were limited, and the identification of options for improving the quality of the data and extending the usefulness of the collection for providing housing information became an added emphasis. The details of the data issues are discussed in Chapter 7. The revised objectives of the project are outlined below.

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[1] The AHRF is a jointly funded Commonwealth/State research committee which aims to facilitate housing research with an emphasis on social and economic problems in housing as well as matters of particular concern to State Housing Authorities.

[2] The RAC consists of senior housing research/policy officials of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Departments.

1.3 Objectives

The purpose of this project was to identify the housing needs of homeless persons by using the national Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) data. The information on housing assistance in this report supplements the more general information contained in the SAAP National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) annual report series.

The project objectives were:

- To provide statistical information on:
  - characteristics of homeless persons who received accommodation assistance through SAAP-funded agencies across the States and Territories of Australia;
  - housing circumstances of SAAP clients, both before and after receiving SAAP assistance;
  - links between the main reason[3] for seeking assistance and the housing situation before support;
  - the relationship between the housing needs of homeless people and unmet needs;
  - links between the SAAP crisis accommodation service and other related health and community services; and
  - housing outcomes of the SAAP accommodation service.

- To contribute substantially to an understanding of the following issues:
  - the dynamics of short-term and long-term housing assistance including information on usage patterns of crisis accommodation services and other forms of housing, particularly in terms of movement between crisis accommodation and public housing;
  - the development of improved definitions for identifying homeless persons who may receive priority allocation from public housing wait lists; and
  - identifying how the current SAAP data may contribute to meeting jurisdictions' current housing assistance information needs and how its usefulness may be increased in the future.

- To identify improvements to the SAAP data collection that could be put to the SAAP Data and Research Advisory Committee (DRAC) for future consideration.

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[3] Clients are asked to state a 'main reason' and can also provide other reasons for seeking assistance.

1.4 Key concepts used in this report

Box 1: Key definitions and methods used in the report

SAAP service users

A SAAP service user is a person who seeks and receives the SAAP service. SAAP service users are only part of the homeless population. The numeration of homeless people in Australia remains uncertain.

Support period versus accommodation period

A support period is an occasion of support provided to a SAAP client (for detailed information see Box 3).

An accommodation period is recorded when a client receives SAAP accommodation. However support periods can have none, one, or more than one accommodation support periods. Therefore for those support periods with at least one accommodation period the length of the accommodation period can be less than or equal to the length of support.

Accommodated support periods

Accommodated support periods are support periods in which accommodation is provided.

Closed support period versus ongoing support period

Support periods which finish before the end of the reporting period (30 June) are said to be closed.

A support period is considered ongoing at the end of the reporting period if each of the following conditions is true:

* *no support end date is provided;*

* *no after-support information is provided; and*

* *the corresponding client form was received in the month following the end of the reporting period.*

Ongoing support periods are excluded from tables relating to duration of support or duration of accommodation or after-support information.

High-volume form versus general form

Most agencies use the general form. A high-volume form is the form collected from the 'high-volume' agencies – those that provide usually short-term support or accommodation to more than 50 persons per night. The high-volume form contains only a subset of questions used in the general form and does not include housing circumstances on departure from SAAP.

1.5 Structure of this report

Chapter 2 talks about the data sources used in this project. The analysis and interpretation of data in this report is presented in Chapters 3–6. Chapter 7 discusses data issues identified in the SAAP 1997–98.

Chapter 3 looks at the characteristics of homeless persons who received SAAP accommodation. Chapter 4 examines the housing needs of homeless people, including unmet needs of people who requested SAAP accommodation, and the links between main reason for seeking assistance and housing situation before support. Chapter 5 examines links between crisis accommodation assistance and other related community services and Chapter 6 looks at the housing outcomes of SAAP accommodation support.

2 Data sources

2.1 The SAAP[4] national data

The SAAP National Data Collection (NDC) is a large-scale and complex data collection designed to collect information on SAAP services. The data collected relate to clients of SAAP-funded agencies who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. It consists of five major separate data collections: Client Data; the Administrative (SAAP agency) Data Collection; Unmet Demand Data; Casual Client Data; and the Special Issue Collection.

Of the five areas of data collection, this project primarily examined data from the Client and Administrative (SAAP agency) collections. The reference period was from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.[5]

Please note the results reported in this project were based on unweighted data as, at the time this project was undertaken, the weighting system was not yet developed. The results might differ if weighted data were to be used. For details about design of the weighting system, see Karmel (1999).

Box 2: The SAAP National Data Collection

The two data areas of the SAAP data collection used in this project are:

Client Data: this is the main component of the NDC, consisting of information about all clients *receiving support under SAAP. The data have been collected continuously from 1 July 1996, and the collection contains a wide range of information on client characteristics and service provision, including information relating to housing issues and housing assistance. The information is recorded on a support period basis. A* client linkage key *(alpha code) is used to enumerate repeat use of SAAP services by clients (for an explanation of the concepts of* support period *and* client *see Box 3).*

The Administrative Data Collection provides general information on agencies funded through SAAP to provide accommodation and support services.

Note: it had been intended to examine data from the Unmet Demand Collection conducted in the period 13–26 November 1997, but the data were not amenable to this.

The Unmet Demand Collection measures unmet demand for SAAP services. It collects information about the requests from individuals or households for support or accommodation from SAAP agencies when these people, for whatever reason, are not provided with the requested service. Due to the difficulty in collecting details from people who are turned away, the Unmet Demand Collection suffers from a low rate of alpha code[6] recording.

For key definitions used in the National Data Collection see the **Glossary**.

Source: AIHW 1999, AIHW 1997b.

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[4] SAAP is the main government response for assisting people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk. Government funding in 1999–2000 was $220 million.

[5] Only two–years' data were available when this project commenced. The 1997–98 data were chosen for this project mainly due to their better data quality and higher consent rate.

[6] The *alpha code* is a predetermined combination of letters from a person's name, together with a letter designating the person's gender, which is joined to the person's year of birth and encrypted to create a *linkage key*. The key is used to combine data from more than one support period for a client without requiring the actual name of the person to be recorded.

The Client Data Collection contains several data items related to housing assistance including:

- type of housing/accommodation prior to and after support, including the separate identification of private rental, owner-occupied, community housing and public housing;

- accommodation support services needed and provided;

- type of SAAP supported accommodation provided;

- duration of SAAP supported accommodation;

- government payments relating to housing assistance received (Commonwealth Rental Assistance, and Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement (CSHA) and State/Territory mortgage/rent relief); and

- main reason for seeking assistance in relation to long-term homelessness (only collected for 1996–97), including 'usual accommodation unavailable', 'financial difficulty' and 'eviction/previous accommodation ended'.

Box 3: Two important concepts in the SAAP Client Collection

A **support period** *is an occasion of support provided to a SAAP client. A support period commences when a client begins to receive support from a SAAP agency. The support period is considered to finish when:*

- *the client ends the relationship with the agency; or*
- *the agency ends the relationship with the client.*

If it is not clear whether the agency or the client has ended the relationship, the support period is assumed to have ended if no assistance has been provided to the client for a period of one month. In such a case, the date the support period ended is one month after the last contact with the client.

A **client** *is a person aged 18 years or older, or a person of any age not accompanied by a parent or guardian, who:*

- *receives support or assistance from a SAAP agency which entails generally one hour or more of a SAAP agency worker's time, either with that client directly or on behalf of that client, on a given day; or*
- *is accommodated by a SAAP agency; or*
- *enters into an ongoing support relationship with a SAAP agency.*

A **client** *can have more than one support period, both over time and at any one time. The alpha code is used as a linkage key to identify repeat use of SAAP services for the same client.*

Source: AIHW 1999:xi–xiv.

2.2 Data scope

Unfortunately the information related to housing or housing assistance is not always obtainable or complete for all support periods. This is part at least due to the nature of the services provided. Data availability on support periods can be classified as follows:

1. **No data:** from support periods in non-participating agencies. (In 1997–98 the non-participation rate was 5.4%.)

2. **Very limited data:** from support periods in which clients did not give consent to complete the form. Only very few data items were collected for non-consent support periods. (In 1997–98 the non-consent rate was 25%.)

3. **Limited data:** from support periods with consent but in high-volume agencies. Agencies that have a high client throughput, catering for a large number of clients in a short periods, are defined as 'high-volume agencies' (see Box 3). The less detailed high-volume form is used by these agencies.

4. **Partial data:** from ongoing support periods with consent and not in high-volume agencies. Since support periods are ongoing, the after-support information, such as type of housing, primary income source, labour force status and length of accommodation period, is not available.

5. **Complete data:** from closed support periods with consent and not in the high-volume agencies. Full data items are collected and obtained.

For the purpose of this project partial and complete data are also partitioned between accommodated and non-accommodated support periods. The non-accommodated support period data contain no information relating to crisis accommodation.

As Figure 2.1 shows, the complexity of the data increases as data levels are improved, that is, higher levels of data availability contain more detailed information than lower levels. Also, the more detailed records from general agencies are more useful than the limited data from high-volume agencies. The data from different levels of data availability have been used in the different parts of this report.

Figure 2.1 also shows the number of support periods at the various levels of data availability in 1997–98 client data. The data items contained in the Client Data Collection and their availability are listed in Appendix 2.

Figure 2.1: Levels of data in the 1997–98 Client Data, by consent and accommodation and complexity of data
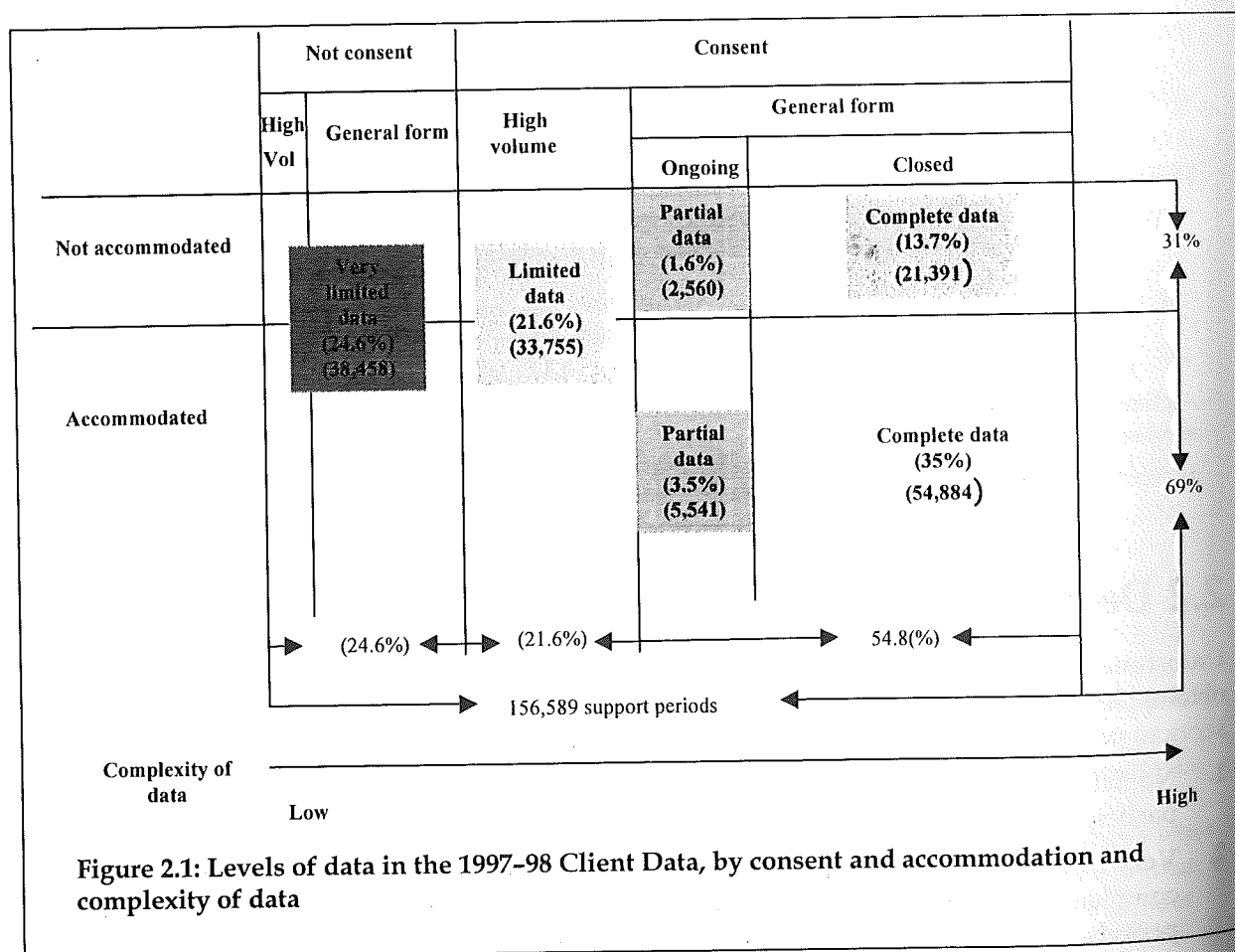
Briefly, Figure 2.1 shows that in 1997–98 there were:

- a total of 156,589 support periods reported;
- 38,458 support periods in which consent[7] was not given, of which 8,994 support periods were in high-volume agencies and 29,464 in general agencies. For those clients that did not give consent, clients from high-volume agencies were asked for less information than the clients from general agencies;
- where consent was given to provide the data, there were:
  - 33,755 support periods in high-volume agencies;
  - 5,541 ongoing support periods in general agencies where accommodation was provided;
  - 54,884 closed support periods in general agencies where accommodation was provided;
  - 2,560 ongoing support periods in general agencies where no accommodation was provided; and
  - 21,391 closed support periods in general agencies where no accommodation was provided.

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[7] The data collection process works on the basis that SAAP clients provide information in a climate of informed consent (AIHW 1999:3).

3 Profile of SAAP clients who received SAAP accommodation across the States/Territories

Accommodation support is a major component of SAAP services for people who are homeless—of a total of 156,589 support periods in 1997–98, 69% included accommodation. The accommodation was provided either directly at SAAP agencies or through other arrangements, such as hotels/motels organised or paid for by agencies. In addition to accommodation, assistance to obtain short-term accommodation or independent housing was also provided through SAAP agencies. If these other forms of assistance are considered to be accommodation support then in 79% of support periods clients received at least one type of accommodation-related service.

The SAAP Client Data Collection form has provision to record the type of accommodation services clients needed and whether these services were provided. The requested service may not be provided for various reasons (see Chapter 4).

In addition to the characteristics of clients provided with accommodation, the characteristics of clients not provided with accommodation are also presented where differences between the two groups require comment. Note that the grouping 'clients not provided with accommodation' includes clients who did not request such services as well as those clients who asked but, for whatever reason, did not receive them (see the Appendix Tables for more information). As noted earlier, caution should be taken when interpreting the data in these tables because of the varying effects of 'no consent' and 'high-volume' on data coverage across different parts of the SAAP Client Data Collection.

3.1 Client characteristics

Gender

In 1997–98 there were 84,600 accommodated support periods where the client's sex was known. Females made up 41% of the total clientele receiving SAAP accommodation (see Table 3.1). Among those not receiving accommodation females made up 62% of all clients (Appendix Table A3.1). However, this is not a general pattern and there is much variation across jurisdictions. For example, 61% of accommodated support periods in Western Australia were provided to female clients, while in New South Wales the proportion was 30%.

Table 3.1: Accommodated support periods, sex by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Female	30.1	57.6	40.0	61.3	41.2	52.1	38.4	41.5	40.9
Male	69.9	42.4	60.0	38.7	58.8	47.9	61.6	58.5	59.1
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	36,086	12,435	13,455	8,022	6,530	2,804	2,166	3,072	84,570

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 81
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 864
3. Gender was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 38,458 records were excluded because consent was not obtained
4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Age

Nationally, half of all accommodated support periods (50%) were provided to clients aged between 25 and 44 years, while one-third (34%) were for clients aged 25 years or less (Table 3.2). Non-accommodated clients were slightly younger in age—46% of clients were aged less than 25 years (Appendix Table A3.2).

Across jurisdictions the proportion of support periods for clients aged less than 25 years ranged from 47% in Tasmania to 25% in New South Wales. The proportion of clients aged 25 to 44 ranged from a high of 59% in the Northern Territory to a low of 42% in Victoria and Tasmania.

Table 3.2: Accommodated support periods, age by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Under 15 years	1.8	0.5	1.9	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.9	0.5	1.4
15–19 years	12.7	27.5	23.2	14.6	19.7	25.4	24.6	11.6	18.0
20–24 years	10.6	20.4	14.2	16.5	17.2	20.6	14.5	13.5	14.2
25–44 years	51.5	42.1	46.6	56.5	50.8	42.3	44.5	58.7	49.5
45–65 years	20.1	8.3	12.4	10.3	10.1	9.2	12.4	13.7	14.6
65 years and over	3.3	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.3
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	35,798	12,289	13,259	7,822	6,462	2,772	2,159	2,992	83,553

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3154
3. Age was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 38,458 records excluded because consent was not obtained
4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Family type

Most accommodated support periods (77%) were associated with lone person clients, while 18% related to single persons with children (Table 3.3). Of the non-accommodated support periods lone persons accounted for 61% of support periods and single persons with children 28% of support periods (Appendix Table A3.3).

Across the States and Territories these proportions varied somewhat. Accommodated support periods for lone persons predominated in the Australian Capital Territory (87%) and New South Wales (86%) but in Western Australia the proportion was 62%. The proportions of support periods relating to single persons with children ranged from 33% in Western Australia to 12% in New South Wales and 11% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 3.3: Accommodated support periods, family type by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Person alone	86.0	69.1	73.7	61.9	72.6	72.2	86.8	75.7	77.4
Couple without children	0.6	3.1	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.2
Single person with children	11.9	22.2	21.1	33.1	22.0	22.7	10.5	20.9	18.3
Couple with children	0.9	3.9	3.8	2.4	3.6	3.2	0.7	2.0	2.3
Other	0.6	1.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.8
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	44,975	15,687	18,062	9,849	7,834	3,358	2,610	3,839	106,214

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 89
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3400
3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Primary target group

Agencies targeting single men provided more accommodated support periods than agencies for other target groups, with 35% of all accommodated support periods being for single men (ranging from 46% in New South Wales to 15% in Western Australia). This was followed by agencies for women escaping domestic violence with 21% (from 46% in Western Australia to 16% in the ACT, NSW and South Australia). Agencies targeting young people were next with 20% of all accommodated support periods (from 28% in Victoria and Tasmania to 10% in the Northern Territory) (Table 3.4). The main target groups in non-accommodated support periods were young people (32%), cross target/multiple and general target groups (31%) and women escaping domestic violence (23%) (Appendix Table A3.4).

Table 3.4: Accommodated support periods, primary target group by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Young people	16.0	28.4	23.2	14.2	23.3	27.8	20.8	10.0	19.7
Single men only	45.7	19.3	35.6	14.7	39.5	24.0	19.7	38.4	35.2
Single women only	1.0	3.6	1.2	3.6	6.4	4.4	0.0	3.4	2.2
Families	3.5	6.1	7.3	3.2	9.4	4.9	1.8	0.8	4.9
Women escaping DV	16.0	19.0	20.8	45.9	16.2	28.8	15.6	34.0	21.1
Cross target/multiple/general	17.7	23.7	11.9	18.5	5.2	10.1	42.1	13.4	17.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	45,911	15,850	18,392	10,053	7,938	3,470	2,632	3,893	108,139

Note: Percentages are based on valid values only.
Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

3.2 Client circumstances before support

The main reason for seeking assistance

Reasons for seeking assistance were given for about one-half of all accommodated support periods.

Table 3.5: Accommodated support periods, main reason for seeking assistance by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodation-related reasons									
Financial difficulty	12.1	6.0	18.9	12.6	12.7	9.9	7.7	19.0	12.1
Eviction	13.7	15.6	17.1	9.0	14.0	17.4	18.0	10.5	14.2
Institution end	3.9	4.0	2.7	2.0	4.9	2.6	4.4	1.2	3.4
Itinerant	10.7	10.2	9.7	6.3	11.9	12.7	13.2	11.0	10.2
Social reasons									
Family breakdown	16.9	17.6	18.1	12.7	16.9	18.8	19.3	10.2	16.6
Psychiatric illness	4.1	5.5	3.7	3.6	4.4	5.3	7.3	2.6	4.4
Domestic violence	19.9	26.2	20.1	29.9	22.4	18.7	11.6	30.0	22.7
Abuse	15.1	10.5	6.0	20.6	8.6	10.7	13.7	9.3	12.4
Other	3.6	4.5	3.9	3.2	4.2	3.9	4.7	6.2	4.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	16,305	10,272	8,534	6,885	4,577	2,345	1,969	1,983	52,870

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 926
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 10,003
3. 'The main reason for seeking assistance' was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 29,464 records were excluded
4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

The two main reasons for seeking assistance were non-accommodation-related—domestic violence, representing 23% of all support periods (ranging from 30% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to 12% in the Australian Capital Territory), and family breakdown (17%). Abuse accounted for another 12% of all support periods (Table 3.5). Accommodation-related reasons included termination of lease/eviction (14%) and financial difficulty (12%). In the case of non-accommodated support periods the main reasons were abuse (26% of support periods), domestic violence (17%) and financial difficulty (17%) (Appendix Table A3.5).

Type of housing/accommodation before support

Housing circumstances before support are of critical interest. One-quarter (24%) of all accommodated support periods were for clients who gave SAAP accommodation as their previous form of housing/accommodation. Furthermore, almost one in six (15%) accommodated support periods were for clients who described their previous accommodation as living in a car, tent, park, street or squat—this proportion ranged from 23% in New South Wales and the Northern Territory to 5% in Tasmania (Table 3.6). About 28% (from 39% in Queensland and Tasmania to 15% in the Northern Territory) of accommodated support periods and 40% of non-accommodated support periods were for clients previously in private rental accommodation (Appendix Table A3.6).

Table 3.6: Accommodated support periods, the type of housing/accommodation before support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	29.4	22.8	17.3	18.1	20.8	18.1	27.7	18.1	23.9
Non-SAAP emergency	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.6
Renting free	8.3	14.4	10.2	7.1	10.5	9.9	17.1	11.1	10.0
Private rental	20.4	33.5	39.4	31.9	29.7	39.1	22.2	15.1	27.7
Public housing	4.7	4.9	3.8	12.3	7.1	11.2	11.1	5.0	5.9
Community housing	2.0	0.8	1.6	6.7	1.3	1.4	1.1	12.1	2.5
Owner-occupied	1.8	4.1	2.3	4.1	3.4	3.9	1.9	1.3	2.6
Car/tent/park/street/ squat	22.9	6.9	10.7	6.8	11.7	6.8	5.4	22.5	15.2
Institutional setting	5.5	4.4	5.4	4.9	7.1	4.9	6.2	4.9	5.4
Other	4.6	7.0	9.0	7.7	7.8	4.1	5.8	9.2	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	34,044	11,890	12,983	7,300	6,324	2,572	2,139	2,957	80,209

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,500

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 7,032

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Primary income source before support

SAAP clients are predominantly low income earners—83% of all accommodated support periods were for clients claiming government payments as their main source of income while between 8% and 13% were for clients who said they had no income (Table 3.7).

Table 3.7: Accommodated support periods, income source by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
No income	9.9	12.0	11.8	8.3	8.3	8.7	12.6	9.1	10.3
Government payments	84.2	80.7	81.9	84.0	86.4	86.3	80.6	82.8	83.4
Other income	5.9	7.3	6.3	7.7	5.3	5.0	6.9	8.1	6.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	34,944	12,051	13,057	7,622	6,353	2,694	2,143	2,960	81,824

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 2,264
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,274
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458
4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Labour force status before support

Most SAAP clients were either not in the labour force (53%) or unemployed (39%) (Table 3.8). The remaining 8% included those employed full-time, part-time or on a casual basis. The proportion unemployed was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (45%) and lowest in Western Australia (36%). For non-accommodated support periods, clients not in the labour force represented 57% of all clients, and unemployed clients 31% (Appendix Table A3.9).

Table 3.8: Accommodated support periods, labour force status before support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Employed	7.2	8.6	8.8	9.4	7.1	4.6	7.5	14.6	8.2
Unemployed	37.9	38.5	39.9	36.2	38.1	39.6	44.5	40.9	38.6
Not in labour force	54.8	52.9	51.2	54.5	54.7	55.8	48.1	44.5	53.3
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	18,498	10,959	9,150	7,517	4,981	2,678	2,150	2,079	58,012

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 57
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,687
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464
4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749
5. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Duration of current homelessness

For the 45,900 accommodated support periods where information on the duration of current homelessness was collected, 41% of clients reported being homeless for less than four weeks, while 17% reported being homeless for more than one year (Table 3.9). A further 19% were described as being at imminent risk. The proportion at imminent risk was 42% among non-accommodated support period clients (Appendix Table A3.10).

Table 3.9: Accommodated support periods, the duration of current homelessness by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98(%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Less than 4 weeks	46.2	28.6	42.3	44.9	35.7	54.9	36.3	52.7	41.4
4–25 weeks	15.9	21.5	17.3	11.4	19.6	16.1	20.0	16.3	17.2
26–51 weeks	4.8	7.3	5.2	3.1	6.9	4.8	7.0	3.1	5.4
One year or longer	18.1	20.0	15.3	10.8	23.4	8.3	19.6	9.8	17.0
At imminent risk	15.0	22.5	19.9	29.8	14.3	15.9	17.2	18.0	19.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**15,146**	**8,694**	**7,271**	**5,112**	**4,172**	**2,122**	**1,840**	**1,579**	**45,936**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 23,146
2. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464
3. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749
4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Living situation before support

Clients experienced a range of living arrangements prior to seeking SAAP assistance. Of the 58,400 accommodated support periods, clients in 24% of cases reported living with a partner (with or without children) immediately before receiving support from a SAAP agency, and a further 22% reported living alone or with children (Table 3.10).

Table 3.10: Accommodated support periods, the living arrangements before support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
With one or both parents	13.8	13.6	12.3	9.5	11.7	13.7	14.8	8.1	12.6
With relative/friend long term	3.8	3.1	3.3	4.8	2.2	3.6	2.3	8.3	3.7
With relative/friend short term	16.7	18.5	21.7	18.2	21.5	19.9	18.7	17.2	18.7
With partner, with/without children	20.2	26.9	24.0	29.4	22.4	24.3	13.6	28.5	23.7
Alone or with children	22.7	20.5	20.4	21.2	20.6	21.2	23.4	25.5	21.6
Other	22.7	17.5	18.3	17.0	21.5	17.3	27.2	12.3	19.7
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**18,424**	**11,104**	**9,208**	**7,717**	**4,986**	**2,690**	**2,159**	**2,099**	**58,387**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 439
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,291
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464
4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749
5. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

In 19% of cases clients were previously living with friends or relatives on a short-term basis and in 13% of cases clients were living with one or both parents. (See Appendix Table A3.11 for a comparison with the living arrangements of non-accommodated support period clients.)

3.3 Accommodation usage

Accommodation type

In 1997–98 the majority of clients accommodated were placed in crisis or short-term accommodation, representing 88% of all accommodated support periods (Table 3.11). This proportion ranged from 73% in Victoria to 95% in the Northern Territory.

Table 3.11: Support periods in which clients were accommodated, accommodation provided by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Crisis/short-term accommodation	92.6	72.5	91.6	89.1	83.8	85.3	77.3	94.7	88.2
Medium/long-term accommodation	7.0	26.7	7.9	12.0	19.1	16.5	22.7	5.3	11.8
Other SAAP	0.9	3.3	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.3
Total number	43,266	13,806	16,897	8,786	7,046	2,966	2,397	3,521	98,685

Notes

1. Clients were able to be accommodated on more than one occasion in each support period so percentages may not total 100.

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,454

3. Excludes high-volume records as not all items were included on high-volume forms

4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Sources: SAAP NDCA Client and Administrative Data Collections, 1997–98.

Most of the remaining accommodation was in the form of medium to long-term accommodation. Overall, medium to long-term accommodation was provided in 12% of the accommodated support periods, but this varied from more than double the national figure in Victoria (27%) to less than half in the Northern Territory (5%).

Duration of accommodation

Most accommodated support periods are for short periods — more than one-half (58%) were for periods of less than one week, with most between one and three days (Table 3.12). Among non-accommodated support periods a similar proportion (55%) were also less than a week, with most being less than one day (Table A3.7). Victoria had slightly longer periods of accommodated support than most States — 43% of support periods were four weeks or more, almost twice the national average of 22%. Western Australia had the longest non-accommodated support periods with 54% of support periods lasting four or more weeks compared with a national average of 33%.

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Table 3.12: Accommodated support periods, length of support period, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Less than 1 day	10.0	6.5	4.2	6.7	2.1	4.5	3.3	6.3	7.2
1–3 days	45.1	18.3	33.3	45.0	31.7	30.2	36.1	45.1	37.8
4–7 days	11.8	9.5	16.4	14.5	14.3	16.0	12.1	17.2	13.1
>1–2 weeks	8.6	10.5	13.5	10.5	13.3	15.0	13.2	10.2	10.6
>2–4 weeks	7.4	12.5	10.5	7.6	11.7	11.1	11.0	8.1	9.2
>4–13 weeks	11.4	21.9	14.1	9.9	14.0	15.1	12.8	8.7	13.4
>13–26 weeks	3.0	9.4	5.0	2.9	5.9	4.0	5.2	2.3	4.5
>26–52 weeks	1.5	6.6	2.0	1.8	4.0	2.4	3.4	1.2	2.5
>52 weeks	1.3	4.8	1.0	1.3	3.1	1.7	2.9	0.8	1.9
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**42,792**	**13,253**	**16,858**	**9,223**	**6,974**	**3,141**	**2,270**	**3,694**	**98,205**

Notes

1.   Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,053

2.   Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

4 Housing needs of SAAP clients

Figure 4.1 describes the housing needs of homeless people.

Homeless persons

Request for SAAP support/assistance   No expressed request for SAAP service

Request for SAAP support only (not accommodation)

Request for SAAP housing/accommodation   Turned away

Expressed need   **Clients**   **Person not assisted**

Met need   Service provided   Service not provided

Met demand

Unmet need

Unmet demand

Figure 4.1: Housing needs of homeless persons
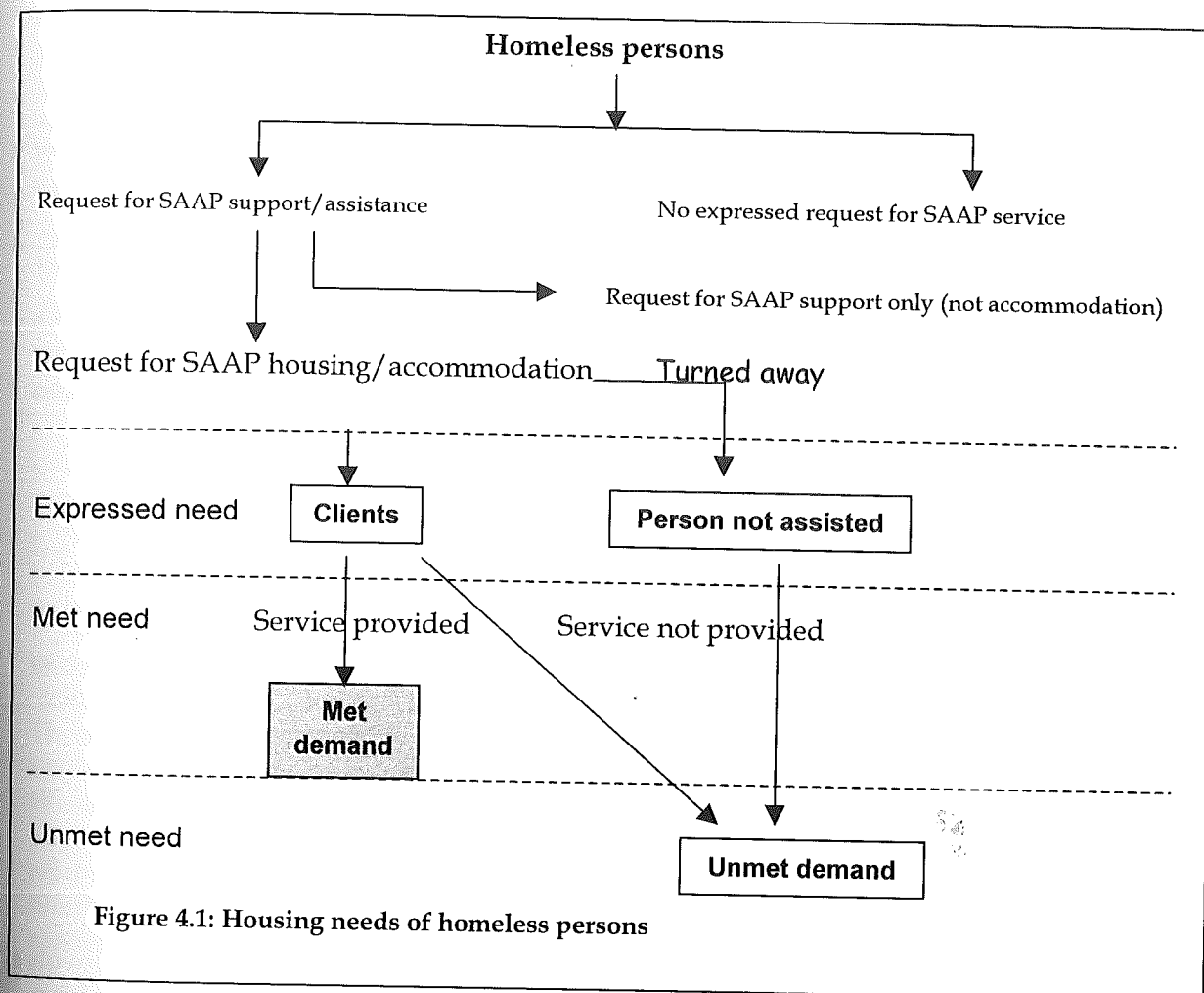
4.1 Expressed need for housing and accommodation assistance

The need for housing and accommodation services was the most frequently expressed need of SAAP clients in 1997–98, with 79% (123,988) of all support periods reporting such a need[8] (Table 4.1). Furthermore, the proportion of all support periods where need for SAAP accommodation was expressed was 67%, ranging from 54% in Tasmania to 84% in the Australian Capital Territory and 82% in New South Wales.

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[8] In this report we identify SAAP clients as having housing needs if they require either SAAP accommodation or assistance to obtain short–term accommodation or assistance to obtain independent housing.

Clients are able to express multiple housing or accommodation needs. Nationally SAAP accommodation was requested in two-thirds (67%) of all support periods. Clients needing assistance in obtaining short-term accommodation represented nearly 19% of all cases. Those needing assistance in obtaining independent housing represented 25% of cases. Expressed need for housing or accommodation varied significantly between jurisdictions — in Victoria, for instance, clients were more inclined to express the need for short-term or independent housing (27% and 38%, respectively), while in New South Wales most clients expressed the need for SAAP accommodation (82%).

Table 4.1: Support periods, housing and accommodation assistance required, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	82.4	43.9	69.2	74.2	62.9	53.8	83.9	71.5	66.9
Assistance to obtain short-term accommodation	14.4	26.9	15.4	16.9	19.5	14.1	24.2	19.5	18.7
Assistance to obtain independent housing	16.3	37.6	19.4	21.9	29.5	30.2	38.3	14.3	24.6
Total	*87.1*	*70.5*	*76.6*	*82.9*	*78.1*	*69.6*	*86.8*	*78.5*	*79.2*
Total number	**52,693**	**39,609**	**25,575**	**11,915**	**12,315**	**6,063**	**3,178**	**5,241**	**156,589**

Note: Clients were able to require multiple services.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

There were also some differences in expressed needs between primary target groups. In 93% of support periods in agencies targeting single men some form of housing or accommodation need was expressed (mostly SAAP accommodation), while a high but smaller proportion of support periods in agencies targeting families and single women also expressed this need (86% and 82%, respectively) (AIHW 1999: Table 4.19). These latter two groups were also more likely to express a need for assistance in obtaining independent housing (52% and 39%, respectively).

Why do SAAP clients seek housing and accommodation assistance?

The main causes of homelessness, requiring housing and accommodation assistance, involve very complicated issues. The following is an analysis of the reasons clients give for seeking SAAP services among those requiring housing and accommodation assistance. As stated in the SAAP Client Data Collection, this analysis must be treated with some caution since the main reasons for seeking assistance were not obtained for over one-half of all support periods — see data scope in Chapter 2 for details.

The most common main reason for seeking assistance was domestic violence (23%), followed by family breakdown (17%), usual accommodation unavailable or eviction or previous accommodation ended (16%) and financial difficulty (12%) (Table 4.2). Other reasons cited included substance abuse and physical or emotional abuse (11%), and arrival from interstate with no means of support (10%). Less commonly, clients sought assistance from SAAP because of psychiatric illness and interpersonal conflict (4%), or because they were recently released from an institution or their previous emergency accommodation had ended (3%).

Table 4.2: Support periods in which clients required housing and accommodation assistance, the main reason for seeking assistance by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Housing-related reasons									
Financial difficulty	12.5	7.4	20.0	13.1	13.0	11.7	8.1	20.1	12.4
Eviction	14.3	17.6	17.7	10.3	15.0	18.6	17.7	11.0	15.5
Institution end	4.0	3.5	2.7	2.0	4.9	2.6	4.4	1.5	3.4
Itinerant	10.8	9.6	10.0	6.7	11.5	12.7	12.6	10.5	10.1
Social reasons									
Family breakdown	17.1	16.6	18.0	13.3	16.2	18.9	19.0	11.5	16.5
Psychiatric illness	4.1	5.0	3.8	3.7	4.7	5.4	7.1	2.7	4.4
Domestic Violence	19.4	27.0	18.1	29.5	21.9	15.6	12.1	27.9	22.5
Abuse	14.1	8.0	5.8	17.0	8.3	9.7	13.3	9.1	10.7
Other	3.7	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.8	5.8	5.7	4.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**16,489**	**16,765**	**8,952**	**6,799**	**5,041**	**2,722**	**2,049**	**2,217**	**61,034**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 725
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 7,508
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

There were some notable variations across the jurisdictions. For instance domestic violence was one of the most common reasons in most States and Territories (reaching 30% in Western Australia) but not in the Australian Capital Territory (12%). In the Australian Capital Territory family breakdown was the prime reason (19%), followed by eviction-related reasons (18%). Financial difficulties also ranked higher in Queensland and the Northern Territory (20% each) compared with other jurisdictions, while family breakdown ranked higher in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania (19% each).

Circumstances of housing before SAAP clients seek housing and accommodation assistance

Poor security of housing tenure before support was a significant characteristic of SAAP clients who expressed a housing need. In particular, in nearly half of SAAP support periods clients were living in 'insecure' housing or accommodation before support, including SAAP accommodation (22%), in a car, tent, park, street or squat (15%), in institutional accommodation (5%), or in a rooming houses, hostel, hotel or other non-SAAP accommodation (7%) (Table 4.3).

In contrast, in only 11% of SAAP support periods were clients living in 'secure' housing before support—that is, dwellings which clients owned or were purchasing (3%), or in public housing (6%) or community housing (2%).

State variations of note include those in SAAP-funded accommodation—highest in New South Wales (29%) and the Australian Capital Territory (27%); private rental accommodation was highest in Queensland and Tasmania (40%); and clients who came from living in car, tent, park, street or squat were the highest in New South Wales (23%) and the Northern Territory (22%).

Table 4.3: Support periods in which clients required housing and accommodation assistance, the type of housing/accommodation before support, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	28.9	16.8	16.9	17.6	19.0	17.2	26.7	17.0	21.8
Non-SAAP emergency	0.4	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.4	0.8	0.8
Renting free	8.6	14.3	10.5	7.5	11.7	11.5	17.2	10.8	10.7
Private rental	20.8	38.2	39.9	32.9	29.9	39.8	23.2	17.6	29.9
Public housing	4.6	4.9	3.7	12.1	6.7	10.2	11.3	5.6	5.7
Community housing	2.0	0.7	1.5	6.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	11.1	2.2
Owner-occupied	1.8	3.7	2.2	4.3	3.4	3.6	1.8	1.4	2.7
Car/tent/park/street/squat	22.9	9.0	10.9	6.5	12.3	6.8	5.4	21.8	14.8
Institutional setting	5.3	3.5	5.2	4.8	6.6	4.7	6.1	4.8	4.9
Other	4.5	7.5	8.8	7.6	8.1	4.4	5.6	9.0	6.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	34,089	20,827	13,626	7,212	7,519	3,016	2,223	3,196	91,708

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,322

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,380

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 26,578

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Main reasons for seeking assistance among clients living in specific housing tenures before support

The main reasons why SAAP clients seek assistance varied according to the status of housing or accommodation tenure before support. For instance, among SAAP clients seeking housing assistance or accommodation, domestic violence was by far the main reason for seeking support among home owner occupiers (65%), followed by community housing (44%) and public housing (43%) tenants (Table 4.4). It was also the main reason for seeking support among 24% of persons previously renting privately, and 20% of those coming from SAAP and non-SAAP emergency accommodation. On the other hand, persons previously living in a car, tent, park, street or squat and 'other' accommodations (27% each) gave 'financial difficulties' as the main reason. In addition, eviction (and related reasons) was cited more often among persons previously living as private renters (19%), and family breakdown was the reason most commonly given among persons previously renting free (34%).

Table 4.4: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing/accommodation status before support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	Housing/accommodation status before support										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Renting community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing related reasons											
Financial difficulty	10.2	11.1	8.1	13.3	6.4	8.3	2.4	27.1	9.7	27.3	12.6
Eviction	17.0	12.6	17.0	19.4	10.7	8.0	3.3	11.5	8.6	16.1	15.8
Institution end	6.9	9.3	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.6	28.8	2.0	3.5
Itinerant	11.9	16.5	9.8	8.1	4.6	5.2	1.8	23.9	5.6	16.5	10.0
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	17.4	13.0	33.5	16.0	13.4	12.6	12.9	10.2	6.3	8.2	16.8
Psychiatric illness	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.1	3.6	1.6	4.2	7.4	5.5	4.5
Domestic Violence	18.7	20.4	12.5	24.0	42.9	43.5	64.8	4.4	3.3	8.1	22.7
Abuse	9.4	8.7	9.4	9.1	11.7	14.6	9.7	13.7	24.2	11.2	10.7
Other	4.1	3.5	3.8	5.0	5.7	3.8	3.4	3.4	6.1	5.1	4.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**10,844**	**461**	**7,568**	**20,958**	**4,153**	**1,466**	**3,482**	**2,091**	**4,045**	**2,818**	**57,886**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

A more detailed analysis by tenure type—public housing, community housing, private renters and home owners—is detailed below. In 1997–98 among 91,708 support periods in which clients required housing or accommodation assistance, 6% were living in public housing, 2% in community housing, nearly 30% were private renters and about 3% were housing owners or purchasers before seeking assistance.

Public housing renters

Persons previously living in public housing and who were seeking housing or accommodation services were more likely to be seeking assistance for reasons that related to social functioning. Among these SAAP clients, by far the most frequent main reason cited for seeking assistance was domestic violence (43%) (Figure 4.2). Family breakdown (13%) and abuse (12%) also rated highly. Of the housing related reasons, eviction or usual

accommodation becoming unavailable (11%) and financial difficulties (6%) were the ones most often reported.
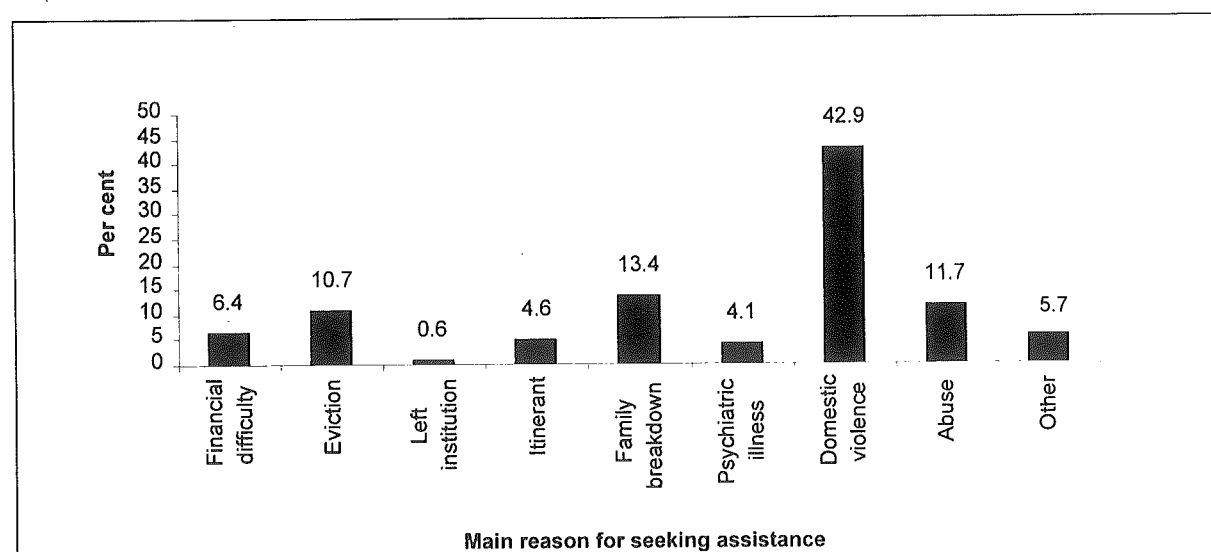
Source: Table 4.4.

Figure 4.2: Support periods in which clients required housing or accommodation support, lived in public housing before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Community housing renters

As for public housing renters, persons previously living in community housing were more likely to require services because of social factors, namely domestic violence (44%), abuse (15%) and family breakdown (13%) (Figure 4.3). Financial difficulties and situations where usual accommodation became unavailable (8% each) were also cited.

Private renters

As mentioned previously, one-third of SAAP support periods represented clients previously living in private rental housing who requested housing or accommodation-related services. As with clients previously in public housing and community housing, domestic violence was most often cited as the main reason for private renters to seek housing or accommodation services (24%), while family breakdown accounted for 16% (Figure 4.4). On the other hand, compared with clients previously in public housing and community housing, a higher proportion of persons previously in private housing cited housing-related matters as their main reason. In particular, usual accommodation becoming unavailable or eviction-related reasons (19%) and financial difficulties (13%) were important contributors.
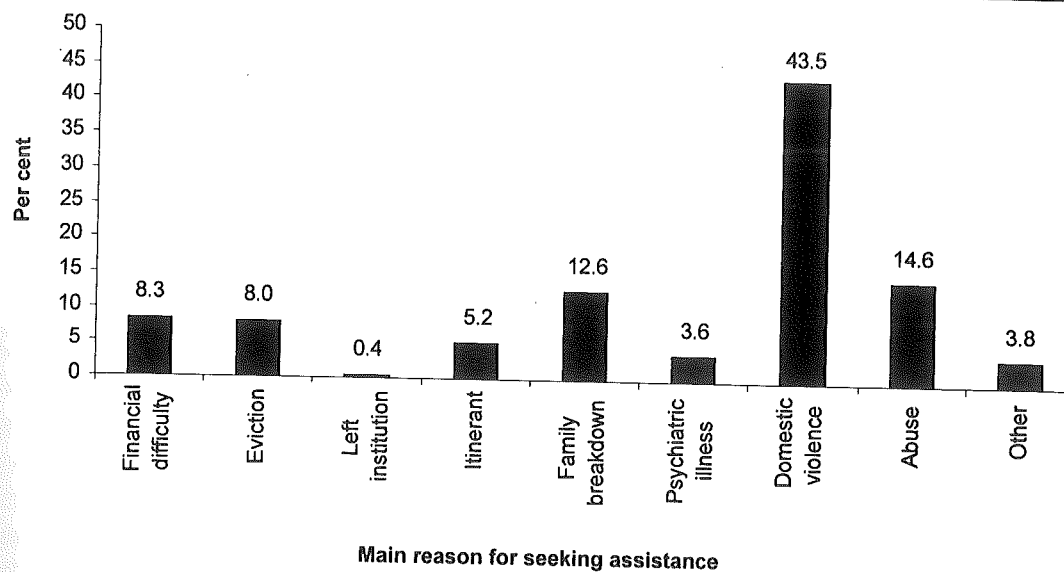
Source: Table 4.4.

Figure 4.3: Support periods in which clients required housing or accommodation support, lived in community housing before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)
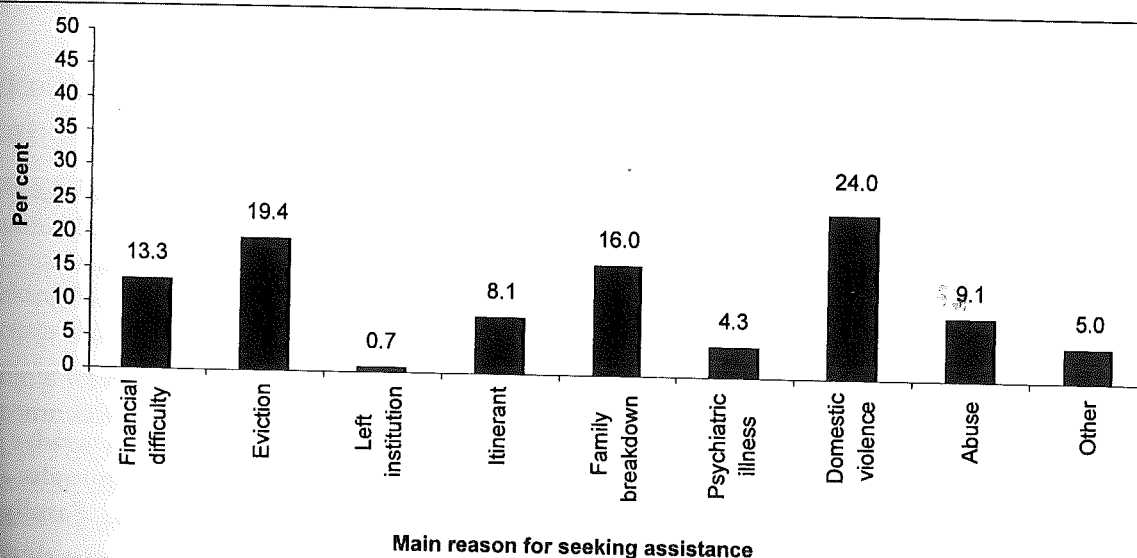
Source: Table 4.4.

Figure 4.4: Support periods in which clients required housing or accommodation support, lived in private rental before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

An analysis of primary source of income of SAAP clients showed that most were either receiving a pension (82%) or other income at all (7%) (Table 4.5). This was also true of those previously living in private rental housing; in other words, some private renters had poor security of tenure because of their level of income, even after allowing for rental assistance. This is discussed further in Chapter 6.

Table 4.5: Support periods, the type of housing or accommodation before support by primary source of income before support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing or accommodation before support	No income	Government payment	Other income	Total	Total number
SAAP accommodation	9.9	85.3	4.7	100.0	21,441
Non-SAAP emergency	9.0	87.9	3.0	100.0	788
Renting free	32.4	61.1	6.5	100.0	11,472
Private rental	6.6	84.1	9.3	100.0	32,754
Public housing	3.9	90.2	5.9	100.0	7,021
Community housing	4.6	86.4	8.9	100.0	2,280
Owner-occupied	12.9	46.8	40.2	100.0	3,584
Car/tent/park/street/squat	7.1	90.5	2.5	100.0	14,234
Institutional setting	15.8	81.5	2.7	100.0	4,789
Other	7.3	88.3	4.4	100.0	7,204
Total	1.6	82.1	7.3	100.0	109,599

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,500

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 7,032

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Owners and purchasers

Home owners and purchasers are generally considered to have more secure housing arrangements than others. This may explain why very few clients from this background cited housing-related reasons (Figure 4.5). Consequently social reasons, overwhelmingly dominated by domestic violence issues (65%), were ones most commonly reported. Family breakdown and abuse were also cited in 13% and 10% of cases, respectively.
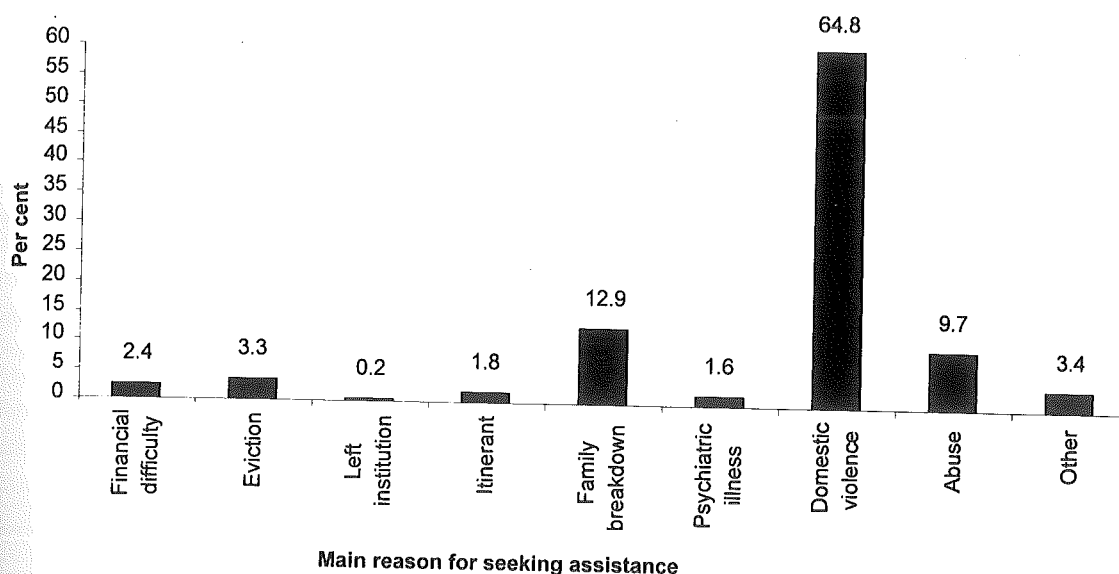
Source: Table 4.4.

Figure 4.5: Support periods in which clients required housing or accommodation support, home owners and purchasers before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Likelihood of requesting housing or accommodation support by status of housing tenure before support

Table 4.6 shows the strong relationship between the type of housing occupied by SAAP clients before receiving assistance and the likelihood of their seeking housing or accommodation support. In particular, clients who were living in 'insecure' housing prior to seeking SAAP housing or accommodation support were more likely to request housing or accommodation-related support.

Clients who were previously living in very insecure housing—such as SAAP-funded accommodation, institutional accommodation, in a car, park, tent, street or squat, or non-SAAP emergency accommodation—were most likely to express a need for housing or accommodation-related support (ranging from 85% to 94% of support periods). In contrast, clients who were living in dwellings they owned or were purchasing and public housing tenants were the least inclined to express a need for accommodation support (63% and 71%, respectively).

Table 4.6: Support periods, the type of housing or accommodation before support, by whether or not client required housing/accommodation, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/accommodation before support	Not required	Required	Total	Total number
SAAP accommodation	10.5	89.5	100.0	22,370
Non-SAAP emergency	15.6	84.4	100.0	819
Renting free	17.3	82.7	100.0	11,869
Private rental	19.6	80.4	100.0	34,062
Public housing	28.8	71.2	100.0	7,319
Community housing	17.0	83.0	100.0	2,425
Owner-occupied	37.2	62.8	100.0	3,893
Car/tent/park/street/squat	6.4	93.6	100.0	14,529
Institutional setting	7.9	92.1	100.0	4,910
Other	18.8	81.2	100.0	7,403
Total	16.3	83.7	100.0	
Total number	**17,891**	**91,708**		**109,599**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,500

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 7,032

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

4.2 Unmet expressed housing needs

There are two types of unmet need for housing and accommodation assistance. One type is when the housing and accommodation needs of *existing clients* cannot be met by the provision of services by SAAP agencies either directly or through referral to other agencies (SAAP and non-SAAP). Note that as data about the final outcome of referrals are not collected it is assumed that clients' needs are met through the referral process. This, however, may not always be the case.

The second type of unmet need stems from an inability to provide support to all homeless people who request housing and accommodation assistance—not all those who wish to become clients of SAAP can be accepted as clients. The two-week Unmet Demand Collection is conducted annually to gather information on this group. However, due to data limitations the Unmet Demand Collection could not be used in this analysis (data issues are discussed in Chapter 7).

The great majority (89%) of SAAP accommodation support needs requested by the 104,800 clients were directly provided by SAAP agencies (Table 4.7). A further 4% were met by referral to other agencies and another 4% through a combination of direct provision and referral.

However, under 3% of expressed needs were not met. The degree to which accommodation needs were met varied across the States and Territories. Victoria provided the lowest proportion of 'directly provided' accommodation (68%) and made the highest proportion of

referrals (15%), but also had the highest level of unmet expressed need (8%) (this is related to the way in which service delivery is set up in Victoria, for details see AIHW 1999: 56). Levels of unmet expressed need were lowest in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania at 1%.

Table 4.7: Support periods, SAAP accommodation support needed by clients, met and unmet expressed need by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Met and unmet expressed need	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Provided only	95.4	68.3	92.2	95.3	85.7	93.0	91.1	92.3	89.3
Referred only	0.8	14.6	2.5	1.1	5.7	3.5	2.6	3.5	4.0
Provided and referred	2.8	9.4	2.6	2.7	5.3	2.4	4.4	2.3	4.0
Unmet	1.0	7.8	2.7	0.9	3.3	1.1	1.9	1.9	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	43,404	17,400	17,704	8,845	7,745	3,263	2,665	3,748	104,774

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

With respect to persons seeking short-term accommodation 54% (some 29,300 clients) had their needs met directly (Table 4.8). This ranged from 31% in the Northern Territory, where almost half of all clients seeking short-term accommodation were referred, to 69% in Western Australia.

For about one in six (16%) the need for assistance to obtain short-term accommodation was not met by SAAP agencies—jurisdictional differences for unmet need ranged from 11% in the Northern Territory to 23% in Tasmania.

Table 4.8: Support periods, assistance to obtain short-term accommodation needed by clients, met and unmet expressed need by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Met and unmet expressed need	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Provided only	60.9	54.5	52.4	68.9	39.3	51.3	41.1	31.0	54.3
Referred only	11.3	19.2	17.7	8.1	21.2	15.9	18.7	49.4	17.3
Provided and referred	10.5	12.8	10.8	7.0	17.7	10.3	24.8	8.7	12.0
Unmet	17.4	13.5	19.2	16.0	21.8	22.5	15.3	10.9	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	7,590	10,671	3,943	2,010	2,407	852	769	1,020	29,262

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

In 1997–98 a total of 38,500 SAAP clients expressed a need for assistance to obtain independent housing, of which 77% had their needs met (Table 4.9). Overall 42% had their needs met directly, 18% were referred to other agencies and 17% had their needs met through a combination of direct provision and referral. However, the need for assistance to obtain independent housing was unmet for 23% of clients, ranging from 21% in the Australian Capital Territory to 28% in the Northern Territory.

The majority of requests (54%) were for assistance to obtain independent housing, while 29% were for assistance to obtain short-term accommodation (Table 4.10) and 17% were for

SAAP accommodation. Note that there may be more than one request for assistance in one support period.

Table 4.9: Support periods, assistance to obtain independent housing needed by clients, met and unmet expressed need by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Met and unmet expressed need	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Provided only	35.1	47.0	42.6	48.1	29.9	46.8	41.5	35.4	41.8
Referred only	22.3	15.8	20.2	13.3	21.6	16.4	15.5	24.8	18.4
Provided and referred	17.3	15.6	14.2	12.7	24.1	13.8	22.5	11.6	16.5
Unmet	25.3	21.6	23.1	25.9	24.5	23.0	20.5	28.2	23.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	8,569	14,891	4,968	2,609	3,629	1,829	1,216	751	38,462

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Again, there was significant variation across jurisdictions. In New South Wales, for example, of the 3,900 unmet requests for assistance seeking housing or accommodation assistance, 56% were for assistance to obtain independent housing (54% nationally), 34% for assistance to obtain short-term accommodation (29% nationally) and 11% for SAAP accommodation (17% nationally).

Table 4.10: SAAP clients' unmet needs, type of accommodation support requested by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Accommodation services requested	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	10.6	22.5	20.0	7.3	15.4	5.4	12.2	18.2	16.6
Assistance to obtain short-term accommodation	33.8	24.1	31.8	29.9	31.4	29.6	28.2	28.1	29.0
Assistance to obtain independent housing	55.6	53.5	48.2	62.7	53.2	65.0	59.6	53.7	54.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	3,902	6,005	2,379	1,076	1,670	648	418	395	16,493

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Agencies targeting young people had the largest proportions of unmet expressed need — 5,200 out of 16,500 (Table 4.11). Among this group 55% of unmet need was for independent housing, 26% for short-term accommodation and 19% for SAAP accommodation. Of the 3,300 requests for accommodation or housing not met in agencies for women escaping domestic violence, 58% were for assistance to obtain independent housing, 28% for short-term accommodation and 14% for SAAP accommodation. This last figure is disturbing because it indicates that in 1997–98 about 440 women escaping domestic violence may have been unable to obtain SAAP accommodation.

Table 4.11: SAAP clients' unmet needs, type of accommodation support requested by primary target group, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Accommodation services requested	Young people	Single men only	Single women only	Families	Women escaping domestic violence	Cross target/ multiple/ general	Australia
SAAP accommodation	18.9	7.8	6.7	26.3	13.5	18.9	16.6
Assistance to obtain short-term accommodation	26.4	41.4	21.1	25.2	28.4	27.9	29.0
Assistance to obtain independent housing	54.7	50.8	72.2	48.5	58.1	53.3	54.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	5,207	2,419	492	1,625	3,264	3,486	16,493

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Of the 16,500 reports of unmet need, 6,200 (37%) came from crisis or short-term accommodation agencies and 5,700 (35%) from medium- to long-term accommodation agencies (Table 4.12). Crisis and short-term accommodation agencies were more likely to meet requests for SAAP accommodation (8% of unmet need) than requests for assistance to obtain independent housing (56% of unmet need) or medium- to long-term accommodation (36% of unmet need). In contrast, medium- and long-term accommodation agencies were more likely to meet short-term accommodation needs (20% of unmet need) than requests for SAAP accommodation (26% of unmet need). As expected, this suggests that agencies are more effective in delivering the specific accommodation needs that they are set up to provide.

Table 4.12: SAAP clients' unmet needs, type of accommodation support requested by service delivery model, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Accommodation services requested	Crisis/ short-term accomm odation	Medium/ long-term accomm odation	Day support	Outreach support	Telephone information referral	Multiple	Other	Aust
SAAP accommodation	8.1	25.7	25.7	19.6	21.6	14.0	11.1	16.6
Assistance to obtain short-term accommodation	35.7	20.3	33.5	24.7	30.5	24.8	32.6	29.0
Assistance to obtain independent housing	56.2	54.0	40.8	55.7	47.9	61.2	56.4	54.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	6,177	5,732	571	465	1,148	250	2,150	16,493

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

5 Links between housing assistance and other services

Clients of SAAP housing and accommodation services often require other community services at the same time. Table 5.1 shows some of the links that exist between housing and accommodation needs and a range of other (non-housing) support service needs of clients. On a national basis, the more commonly requested support services by clients seeking housing or accommodation support included general support services such as laundry or shower facilities (65%), meals (64%) and general advice or information (59%).

Table 5.1: Support periods in which clients requested housing/accommodation support, the most needed other (non-housing) support services by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Support services requested	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Financial/employment									
Assistance to obtain government benefit/pension/allowance	7.9	17.0	11.1	13.1	15.6	13.6	17.4	11.0	12.0
Employment/training assistance	5.4	11.7	6.5	9.1	6.8	4.6	16.2	7.9	7.7
Financial assistance/material aid	23.5	46.8	28.0	31.1	29.5	27.2	39.4	43.5	31.7
Financial counselling	7.6	15.2	13.2	15.6	16.2	13.6	21.1	10.0	12.1
Counselling									
Domestic violence counselling	8.1	20.0	11.7	16.2	17.6	11.9	17.2	13.7	13.2
Family/relationship counselling and support	11.2	23.0	16.2	19.6	16.6	14.3	26.8	15.3	16.3
Emotional support/other counselling	20.8	41.4	31.0	37.7	33.4	35.9	42.1	47.1	31.3
General support/advocacy									
Living skills/personal development	12.7	19.8	21.1	16.3	16.1	13.4	27.2	25.7	17.0
Assistance with legal issues/court support	8.0	19.5	10.1	12.6	12.3	11.2	17.3	13.9	12.1
Advice/information	43.6	74.8	57.4	59.3	78.4	64.9	81.3	75.9	59.4
Retrieval/storage/removal of personal belongings	30.4	25.7	29.1	15.8	31.4	17.9	28.1	39.5	27.9
Advocacy/liaison on behalf of client	18.8	53.5	22.6	31.7	37.0	31.0	37.0	29.8	30.8
Specialist services									
Psychiatric services	3.4	5.7	3.8	4.5	4.6	5.3	12.9	1.6	4.4
Drug/alcohol support/rehabilitation	16.7	11.4	7.9	14.1	8.3	8.3	22.2	8.7	12.8
Culturally appropriate support	3.4	7.3	4.6	13.7	5.6	1.5	7.5	38.4	6.6
Health/medical services	22.5	23.4	22.9	20.9	20.8	18.8	31.6	23.9	22.6
Other support									
Meals	78.0	33.2	71.2	70.3	57.2	60.7	74.6	80.4	64.0
Laundry/shower facilities	83.0	26.3	69.0	73.9	57.5	60.5	86.3	77.9	64.5
Recreation	26.8	17.9	38.1	26.4	41.8	21.3	70.7	55.5	29.4
Transport	32.5	39.8	44.7	47.8	34.0	43.7	58.0	46.1	38.8
Total number	**20,855**	**18,932**	**7,405**	**4,948**	**4,538**	**2,522**	**1,905**	**1,987**	**63,092**

Note: Clients were able to request multiple services so percentages do not total 100.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Other significant support services included transport (39%), financial assistance or material aid (32%), emotional support or counselling (31%) and advocacy on behalf of a client (31%).

New South Wales and Victoria showed very different profiles. For instance, with the exception of meals, laundry/shower facilities and a couple of other services, clients in New South Wales requested support services at rates less than the national average. In contrast Victorian clients requested most support services at rates above the national average, especially financial or employment service, counselling and 'general support' services. However, Victoria had a much lower proportion of clients seeking meals, laundry/shower facilities and recreation services. Importantly the rate of requests for culturally appropriate support services, nationally requested in 7% of support periods, was twice as high in Western Australia (14%) and almost six times as high in the Northern Territory (38%) — these are jurisdictions with large Indigenous populations.

The types of non-housing-related support services requested by clients also differed according to the housing situation of the client before support. Generally it appears that clients in different housing situations before support required different community services (Table 5.2). Private renters were the largest group among the tenure types reported in Table 5.2 (27,400 support periods). Furthermore, they represented about 40% of the total number of support periods involving requests for non-housing-related support services.

Of the tenure types reported, owner and purchaser clients requested counselling or legal services much more frequently than other groups. The rate of requests was more than twice the national average for assistance to obtain government benefits (35% versus 12%), counselling for domestic violence (52% versus 13%), family and relationship counselling (34% versus 16%) and assistance with legal issues (41% versus 12%).

Community housing tenants, compared with other tenure types, reported a particular need for services such as meals (79%), laundry or shower facilities (78%) and culturally appropriate support (21%).

The types of support services sought were also related to the main reason for seeking supported assistance. For instance, clients who gave financial difficulty as their main reason for seeking support, also requested finance-related assistance/advice or information (65%) and financial assistance/material aid (36%) (Table 5.3). Clients seeking assistance for eviction and termination-related reasons expressed needs for financial assistance (40%), financial counselling (20%), advice or information (70%) and living skills development (29%).

Clients leaving emergency accommodation or institutions were likely to seek a variety of support services that included specialist services, notably drug or alcohol rehabilitation (20%) and psychiatric services (11%).

Table 5.2: Support periods in which clients requested housing/accommodation support, other (non-housing) support services needed, by housing tenure before support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Support services requested	Public housing	Community housing	Private rental	Owner-occupied	Australia (All support periods)
Financial/employment					
Assistance to obtain government benefit/pension/allowance	13.2	7.4	14.5	34.6	12.0
Employment/training assistance	5.2	3.7	10.0	5.1	7.7
Financial assistance/material aid	35.3	31.4	39.4	37.7	31.7
Financial counselling	12.9	7.1	17.8	12.3	12.1
Counselling					
Domestic violence counselling	28.1	19.0	18.5	52.0	13.2
Family/relationship counselling and support	23.4	16.2	22.2	34.0	16.3
Emotional support/other counselling	41.9	33.7	40.0	59.8	31.3
General support/advocacy					
Living skills/personal development	14.7	14.1	19.8	10.8	17.0
Assistance with legal issues/court support	21.5	15.2	16.2	41.1	12.1
Advice/information	65.2	55.9	69.4	75.7	59.4
Retrieval/storage/removal of personal belongings	26.1	21.3	28.3	26.9	27.9
Advocacy/liaison on behalf of client	40.8	29.3	39.7	50.7	30.8
Specialist services					
Psychiatric services	4.9	2.6	3.9	4.1	4.4
Drug/alcohol support/rehabilitation	9.8	7.3	10.7	5.3	12.8
Culturally appropriate support	9.9	20.5	6.4	15.5	6.6
Health/medical services	25.9	24.1	23.7	28.0	22.6
Other support					
Meals	66.1	79.1	55.6	56.1	64.0
Laundry/shower facilities	66.9	77.9	54.5	57.2	64.5
Recreation	33.8	35.9	29.8	31.0	29.4
Transport	21.5	56.9	42.7	52.0	38.8
Total number	**5,213**	**2,012**	**27,390**	**2,446**	**63,092**

Note: Clients were able to require multiple services so percentages do not total 100.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Victims of domestic violence particularly required services such as domestic violence counselling (66%) and emotional support/other counselling (59%), as well as advice/information (79%), advocacy on behalf of a client (57%) and assistance with legal issues (39%), health and medical services (36%), assistance to obtain government benefits (24%) and culturally appropriate support (18%).

Table 5.3: Support periods in which clients requested housing and accommodation support, the most needed other supports by main reason for support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Support services requested	Financial difficulty	Eviction	Left institution	Domestic violence	Australia (all support periods)
Financial/employment					
Assistance to obtain government benefit/pension/allowance	9.7	14.3	18.2	24.2	12.0
Employment/training assistance	7.6	13.8	17.2	5.5	7.7
Financial assistance/material aid	36.2	39.6	39.4	43.7	31.7
Financial counselling	3.6	20.2	23.6	12.4	12.1
Counselling					
Domestic violence counselling	2.9	5.4	5.3	65.9	13.2
Family/relationship counselling and support	13.1	19.8	20.8	30.3	16.3
Emotional support/other counselling	28.6	38.5	41.7	59.1	31.3
General support/advocacy					
Living skills/personal development	17.3	29.2	35.6	14.3	17.0
Assistance with legal issues/court support	6.9	12.5	17.3	38.7	12.1
Advice/information	64.5	70.2	67.2	78.6	59.4
Retrieval/storage/removal of personal belongings	19.9	25.5	26.9	27.3	27.9
Advocacy/liaison on behalf of client	28.1	43.4	44.6	57.1	30.8
Specialist services					
Psychiatric services	3.6	4.3	11.1	3.3	4.4
Drug/alcohol support/rehabilitation	9.8	11.1	20.4	6.4	12.8
Culturally appropriate support	2.7	4.7	4.7	18.0	6.6
Health/medical services	17.9	20.3	27.1	36.3	22.6
Other support					
Meals	67.1	53.9	59.5	59.3	64.0
Laundry/shower facilities	65.3	52.2	58.5	60.2	64.5
Recreation	32.3	32.7	37.9	34.5	29.4
Transport	27.8	47.2	49.5	67.6	38.8
Total number	**7,557**	**9,463**	**2,057**	**13,740**	**63,092**

Note: Clients were able to require multiple services so percentages do not total 100.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

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6 Housing outcomes

The destination of SAAP clients after receiving SAAP accommodation support varies. The 1997–98 data showed a large proportion (38%) moving into private rental market accommodation—with proportions varying from 46% in Tasmania to 19% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 6.1). Twenty per cent of SAAP clients who received accommodation assistance went on to other SAAP accommodation—the range was from 27% in the Australian Capital Territory to 10% in the Northern Territory. Other types of housing or accommodation tenures after support included public housing (11%), renting free (10%), rooming houses, hostels, hotels and other non-SAAP accommodation (7%), community housing (5%) and institutional setting (5%).

Table 6.1: Completed support periods, clients that received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	22.9	21.7	17.1	13.9	17.8	13.9	26.6	10.1	19.5
Non-SAAP emergency	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.3	0.9	0.8
Renting free	11.9	7.7	10.5	6.6	7.6	7.2	14.8	12.3	9.5
Private rental	34.3	42.9	43.4	36.6	34.3	45.7	19.0	22.6	37.8
Public housing	9.9	10.7	7.3	13.7	15.6	16.7	19.0	13.2	11.3
Community housing	4.5	1.5	5.9	7.3	5.4	2.0	1.2	15.9	4.5
Owner-occupied	2.3	2.3	1.5	3.3	2.7	2.4	1.2	1.6	2.3
Car/tent/park/street/squat	2.6	1.2	2.3	4.0	2.3	1.9	2.6	6.8	2.4
Institutional setting	5.7	3.2	2.9	8.0	6.1	5.6	8.6	3.6	4.9
Other	5.1	7.5	8.4	6.2	7.6	4.0	4.7	13.1	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	11,451	11,314	6,098	4,821	3,369	1,855	1,321	1,490	41,719

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 274
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 19,889
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 18,156
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

The link between housing type before and after SAAP accommodation support

There is a link between housing 'tenures' before and after SAAP accommodation support. In particular, there is a high correlation between the type of housing before support and the type of housing after support—people tended to return to their original accommodation

arrangements, though not necessarily to the same dwelling.[9] For example, clients who were previously living in public housing returned to live in public housing in 60% of cases compared with only 11% of clients from all tenure types (Table 6.2). Similarly, the proportion of clients who returned to private rental was 59% compared with 35% from all tenure types moving into private rental and related housing arrangements after support.

Table 6.2: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation, by type of accommodation immediately before and after a support period, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Renting community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	40.5	17.8	17.2	14.0	11.7	7.2	11.7	17.8	14.5	19.0	19.9
Non-SAAP emergency	0.6	16.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.7
Renting free	8.8	6.8	41.6	4.9	3.9	3.2	3.6	8.1	4.6	7.0	10.3
Private rental	25.3	26.3	23.9	59.0	16.2	10.7	26.1	23.2	25.3	25.6	35.4
Public housing	8.0	12.3	5.0	7.9	60.3	3.2	5.6	3.9	5.4	6.7	11.2
Community housing	3.4	3.4	1.5	3.4	1.6	68.4	3.0	1.6	2.0	3.1	4.8
Owner-occupied	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.1	45.7	0.1	0.4	0.8	2.5
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	1.4	2.1	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	26.0	2.2	2.7	2.7
Institutional setting	4.8	3.4	4.0	3.8	2.8	·2.6	1.7	8.1	7.8	27.4	5.5
Other	6.2	10.6	4.6	4.9	2.4	3.7	2.0	10.4	36.8	7.4	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	7,191	236	4,297	11,995	2,885	1,094	1,543	2,143	1,906	1,711	35,001

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,132

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 19,826

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 15,612

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. Private rental includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Also, of clients in SAAP accommodation prior to receiving accommodation support, 41% returned to SAAP accommodation, 25% entered private rental arrangements and 8% went into public housing. Of clients previously in rooming houses, hostels and hotel accommodation, 37% returned to this form of accommodation, 25% moved into private rental accommodation and 15% to SAAP accommodation. Interestingly, one in four (26%) clients whose previous accommodation was living in a car, tent, park, street or squat returned to this form of accommodation immediately following receipt of SAAP accommodation support, while 23% entered into private rental accommodation and 18%

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[9] Information on the proportion of clients returning to the same dwelling is not available from the current SAAP collections but it may be an idea for future collections.

into SAAP accommodation services. Eight per cent of clients who were in institutional settings returned after the support period, 25% moved on to private rental accommodation and 15% went into SAAP accommodation.

Housing outcome by housing tenure before support

As mentioned above, in the majority (60%) of cases accommodated SAAP clients whose previous form of accommodation was public housing returned to public housing. A further 16% moved into private rental housing and 12% went to SAAP accommodation (Table 6.3). In all States and Territories these were the top three housing/accommodation tenures among clients following periods of support. As with most other measures, there was variation between jurisdictions. Returns to public housing were highest in the Northern Territory (77%) and lowest in Victoria (47%); the proportion that went to private rental housing/accommodation ranged from 27% in Tasmania to a low of 7% in the Northern Territory. Clients came from community housing prior to receiving SAAP accommodation services returned to community housing in just over two-thirds (68%) of cases. A further 11% moved into private rental housing, and 8% went to SAAP accommodation (Table 6.4).

Table 6.3: Completed support periods in which clients came from public housing and received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	12.0	19.0	10.0	5.6	13.8	10.0	17.6	6.9	11.7
Non-SAAP emergency	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.3	—	0.5
Renting free	4.4	5.2	3.1	2.3	3.3	3.2	8.5	1.0	3.9
Private rental	12.9	23.2	21.0	10.5	16.7	27.4	19.0	6.9	16.2
Public housing	65.0	46.7	56.4	73.7	53.3	53.7	39.9	76.5	60.3
Community housing	1.3	1.4	3.4	0.9	3.3	0.5	2.0	1.0	1.6
Owner-occupied	—	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	—
Car/tent/park/street/squat	0.2	–	0.3	0.2	1.4	—	1.3	4.9	0.5
Institutional setting	1.7	1.4	1.4	4.4	4.3	2.6	8.5	1.0	2.8
Other	1.9	2.8	4.1	1.8	3.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	877	426	291	570	276	190	153	102	2,885

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 7
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 1,010
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 0
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table 6.4: Completed support periods in which clients came from community housing and received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	6.5	23.5	8.8	5.4	4.8	17.9	35.3	2.8	7.5
Non-SAAP emergency	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4
Renting free	2.3	4.9	5.1	1.3	3.2	—	—	5.2	3.1
Private rental	13.7	23.5	16.9	9.5	14.5	7.1	17.6	3.6	11.4
Public housing	3.4	7.4	4.4	0.3	4.8	10.7	23.5	2.0	3.2
Community housing	68.4	33.3	53.7	78.4	66.1	57.1	17.6	77.0	67.7
Owner-occupied	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	—	0.1
Car/tent/park/street/squat	0.4	1.2	0.7	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.4
Institutional setting	2.3	1.2	0.7	1.9	3.2	7.1	5.9	4.0	2.5
Other	1.1	4.9	9.6	2.9	3.2	—	—	4.4	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	263	81	136	315	62	28	17	248	1,150

Notes

1   Number of records excluded due to errors: 7

2.   Number of records excluded due to omissions: 452

3.   Percentages are based on valid values only

4.   'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

There was some variation in these outcome trends between jurisdictions. In the Northern Territory and Western Australia more than three in four clients previously in community housing returned to community housing living (77% and 78%, respectively), while this was true for one in three (33%) in Victoria and 18% in the Australian Capital Territory. In these two latter jurisdictions, SAAP accommodation and private rental housing accounted for about half the tenure destinations of clients previously in community housing.

Table 6.5: Completed support periods in which clients came from private rental and received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	14.5	14.4	10.9	8.6	12.5	11.1	21.1	8.1	12.9
Non-SAAP emergency	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	2.1	0.3	0.7
Renting free	5.3	3.5	5.2	3.8	4.1	3.7	5.3	3.8	4.4
Private rental	61.6	64.0	61.2	68.7	53.4	61.0	43.5	54.4	61.9
Public housing	5.7	9.0	6.3	5.0	13.7	13.0	17.9	13.4	8.1
Community housing	4.3	1.2	6.3	1.4	4.2	1.2	0.4	1.3	3.1
Owner/purchaser	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3
Car/tent/park/street/squat	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.4	4.4	0.8
Institutional setting	3.4	1.8	2.3	7.0	4.1	5.1	5.6	2.2	3.3
Other	3.3	4.3	6.1	4.3	5.9	3.0	2.8	12.2	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	3,592	4,466	2,617	1,591	1,148	739	285	320	14,758

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 27
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 5,429
3. Percentages are based on valid values only
4. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

In 62% of cases clients that came from private rental housing or accommodation prior to receiving SAAP accommodation services returned to private rental living arrangements. This proportion ranged from 69% in Western Australia to 44% in the Australian Capital Territory, where 21% were housed in SAAP accommodation and 18% in public housing, compared with national averages of 13% and 8% respectively (Table 6.5). By comparison with other tenure types, home owners and purchasers were less likely to return to the form of tenure they occupied before seeking SAAP accommodation services (43%), while 29% went to renting privately and 12% went to SAAP accommodation (Table 6.6). All States and Territories followed this national trend. In New South Wales 51% of owner occupiers returned to being owner occupiers (compared with 62% of private renters returning to private rental housing), while 21% moved to private rental and 10% to SAAP accommodation. In Victoria the proportions were 35%, 34% and 18%, respectively.

Table 6.6: Completed support periods in which clients were owner or purchaser and received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	10.2	17.5	11.4	5.4	10.3	2.4	21.9	10.3	11.8
Non-SAAP emergency	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Renting free	4.2	4.6	4.5	1.2	3.4	6.0	0.0	0.0	3.8
Private rental	21.2	33.5	32.2	28.6	32.6	31.3	15.6	10.3	28.7
Public housing	5.6	5.3	5.9	5.8	6.3	9.6	9.4	10.3	6.0
Community housing	2.3	1.1	7.4	0.4	8.6	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.7
Owner/purchaser	50.5	35.0	36.1	52.9	37.1	43.4	40.6	65.5	42.8
Car/tent/park/street/squat	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.2	3.1	0.0	0.3
Institutional setting	2.6	0.2	0.0	3.9	0.0	2.4	6.3	0.0	1.5
Other	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.7	2.4	3.1	3.4	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	430	543	202	259	175	83	32	29	1,753

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 5
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 274
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 0
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98

Four out of ten (40%) clients who, before seeking SAAP accommodation services, were in SAAP accommodation returned to this form of accommodation—jurisdictional variations ranged from 46% in New South Wales to 32% in South Australia and Tasmania (Table 6.7). In all States and Territories, except the Australian Capital Territory, the second most common form of accommodation after support was private rental accommodation (26%), ranging from 37% in Tasmania to 12% in the Australian Capital Territory (where public housing was higher, at 17%).

Table 6.7: Completed support periods in which clients came from SAAP accommodation and received SAAP accommodation, type of housing after support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
SAAP accommodation	46.3	35.3	41.2	41.1	32.0	32.4	39.1	34.6	40.3
Non-SAAP emergency	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.8	1.6	2.4	0.6
Renting free	9.6	7.9	8.8	5.8	5.7	6.5	12.7	8.3	8.4
Private rental	22.8	30.3	28.3	27.0	29.2	37.0	12.4	15.6	26.0
Public housing	5.9	9.4	4.4	7 1	13.2	13.7	17.3	12.2	8.2
Community housing	2.9	1.9	5.4	5.2	6.6	1.5	1.9	3.4	3.4
Owner-occupied	0.8	1.4	0.8	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.0
Car/tent/park/street/squat	1.2	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.4	2.2	2.4	1.3
Institutional setting	5.1	4.2	2.4	5.5	4.0	3.8	7.8	6.3	4.6
Other	4.8	8.3	6.3	4.9	6.8	3.4	4.6	13.7	6.2
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	2,649	1,753	1,062	730	575	262	371	205	7,607

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 35

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,967

3. Percentages are based on valid values only

4. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Housing outcome by main reason of assistance

There was some connection between the form of accommodation or housing that clients entered following receipt of SAAP accommodation assistance and the main reason they sought assistance in the first place. Table 6.8 details some of these complex inter-relationships. For instance, clients were more likely to move to SAAP accommodation following reasons such as emergency or departure from an institution (28%), illness or personal conflicts (24%) or usual accommodation unavailable or evicted (23%) than financial difficulty (17%) or abuse (16%).

Rooming house, hostel, hotel and other non-SAAP accommodation options were more common among clients with financial difficulties (16%), interstate movers or itinerants (11%) and persons suffering illness or personal conflicts (10%).

The 8,820 clients whose main reason for seeking assistance was domestic violence were most likely to move to private rental accommodation (38%) and SAAP accommodation (20%). Importantly this group was also much more likely to access public housing (16%) and community housing (8%) than other groups of SAAP clients. Similarly, clients whose main reason for seeking assistance was emergency or departure from an institution were more likely than other groups to live in SAAP accommodation after support (28%).

Table 6.8: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation, type of accommodation immediately after a support period, by main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	Main reason for seeking assistance									
	Financial difficulty	Eviction	Left institution	Itinerant	Family breakdown	Psychiatric illness	Domestic violence	Abuse	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	16.7	22.9	27.9	21.7	20.4	23.5	20.3	16.0	16.8	20.1
Non-SAAP emergency	1.7	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.7
Renting free	6.3	11.6	8.7	10.0	18.9	10.5	6.7	8.5	9.1	10.3
Private rental	36.7	37.6	28.1	33.5	36.6	31.4	37.6	30.6	36.8	35.5
Public housing	7.8	10.2	8.8	8.1	8.3	7.7	16.3	10.8	14.2	11.2
Community housing	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.5	7.6	4.4	5.1	4.8
Owner-occupied	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	2.3	1.2	5.4	2.1	2.8	2.5
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	6.3	1.8	2.2	6.4	0.9	3.3	0.4	4.9	2.3	2.6
Institutional setting	4.9	4.8	12.6	4.2	2.9	8.3	1.5	15.4	5.8	5.4
Other	15.5	6.2	7.0	10.7	5.3	10.0	3.6	6.9	6.9	6.9
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**3,104**	**4,565**	**1,024**	**2,828**	**5,800**	**1,476**	**8,820**	**4,456**	**1,333**	**33,406**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 847
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 20,631
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 15,612
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
6. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Persons who expressed financial difficulty as their main reason for seeking accommodation assistance were more likely to end up in private rental housing (35%), SAAP accommodation (18%) or living in a car, tent, park, street or squat (16%) (Table 6.9). Those who were in private rental housing (the modal group) were, in 51% of cases, likely to return to this tenure form, while 13% were likely to end up in SAAP accommodation and 13% in cars, tents, parks, the street or squats. Of those previously in SAAP accommodation assistance, 40% returned to this form of accommodation while 22% went to private housing and 15% to living in cars, tents, parks, the street or squats.

Table 6.9: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation and financial difficulty was the main reason for seeking assistance, by type of accommodation immediately after a support period, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	Type of housing/accommodation before support										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	40.1	8.2	21.1	13.1	13.1	11.4	8.3	13.0	13.9	10.9	17.6
Non-SAAP emergency	0.2	10.2	—	0.3	0.4	—	—	0.5	—	1.0	0.5
Renting free	4.2	10.2	26.3	7.6	8.9	8.8	16.7	3.1	7.6	4.6	7.7
Private rental	21.5	42.9	22.1	50.8	36.7	40.4	—	17.1	22.9	27.6	35.3
Public housing	2.0	2.0	1.1	2.0	25.3	—	—	—	2.1	2.1	3.5
Community housing	1.2	4.1	1.1	0.8	1.3	22.8	—	2.1	—	0.6	1.8
Owner-occupied	—	—	—	0.7	0.4	0.9	41.7	—	0.7	0.4	0.6
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	15.0	6.1	13.2	12.7	5.5	2.6	8.3	54.9	15.3	17.8	15.6
Institutional setting	3.8	—	3.2	3.3	3.4	4.4	8.3	1.6	20.1	2.5	3.9
Other	12.1	16.3	12.1	8.8	5.1	8.8	16.7	7.8	17.4	32.4	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	506	49	190	1,126	237	114	12	193	144	478	3,049

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 39

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 2,880

3. Percentages are based on valid values only

4. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

5. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Clients who gave domestic violence as their main reason were more likely to enter public housing than clients of other tenures. Specifically, 15% of clients citing domestic violence as their main reason for seeking SAAP assistance moved to public housing (Table 6.10). This compares with 3.5% of clients citing financial difficulty (Table 6.9), 5% of clients citing usual accommodation unavailable (Table 6.11) and 1.4% of clients citing exit from an institution or 'emergency accommodation ended' (Table 6.12). Furthermore, of the clients who cited domestic violence as their main reason and who moved into public housing, 56% were previously from public housing.

Table 6.10: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation and domestic violence was the main reason for seeking assistance, by type of accommodation immediately after a support period, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	Type of housing/accommodation before support										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	31.4	17.3	11.7	11.6	14.9	13.3	7.2	9.4	12.1	17.7	16.1
Non-SAAP emergency	0.4	17.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	—	—	1.0	0.6
Renting free	7.7	3.8	39.9	4.0	2.8	2.6	0.8	3.1	8.9	7.2	6.9
Private rental	37.4	38.5	26.2	64.9	18.4	18.1	2.5	18.8	36.3	31.8	40.3
Public housing	11.2	15.4	9.1	6.3	56.0	4.0	—	—	10.5	6.6	15.2
Community housing	1.8	3.8	2.9	1.7	0.9	53.4	0.2	—	8.1	4.9	5.8
Owner-occupied	7.4	3.8	6.9	8.0	3.9	5.7	88.6	3.1	8.1	6.2	11.4
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	0.6	—	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.6	—	62.5	0.8	2.6	1.1
Institutional setting	0.6	—	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.2	3.1	9.7	0.7	0.7
Other	1.4	—	1.0	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.2	—	5.6	21.3	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	1,628	52	581	3,256	1,405	652	473	32	124	305	8,508

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 174

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 2,688

3. Percentages are based on valid values only

4. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

5. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Clients whose main reason was 'usual accommodation unavailable' or 'eviction' were likely to move to private rental (41%), SAAP accommodation (24%) or renting free (13%) with public housing accessed in only 5% of cases (Table 6.11).

Reflecting the particular difficulties of persons recently leaving institutional settings, Table 6.12 shows that of those who expressed 'left institution' or 'emergency accommodation ended' as their main reason for seeking assistance, 40% moved to an institutional setting at the end of the SAAP support period. Of those who previously lived in institutional settings, 65% returned to such a setting, while 18% ended up in SAAP accommodation.

Table 6.11: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation and usual accommodation unavailable and eviction was a main reason for assistance, type of accommodation immediately before and after a support period, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	45.5	21.2	19.7	15.4	16.9	13.2	21.9	18.5	15.7	25.2	23.7
Non-SAAP emergency	0.8	6.1	1.0	0.4	0.2	—	0.4	—	2.4	—	0.6
Renting free	11.1	6.1	44.4	8.8	8.5	2.5	8.6	7.4	9.6	10.7	13.3
Private rental	25.3	48.5	21.5	60.7	42.7	49.1	27.3	14.8	24.1	26.6	41.1
Public housing	2.9	—	2.1	2.7	24.9	1.3	4.3	—	3.6	2.3	5.0
Community housing	0.9	—	1.0	0.8	0.9	22.6	1.4	—	—	0.5	1.6
Owner-occupied	0.4	—	0.2	0.5	0.4	—	—	44.4	—	—	0.6
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	4.7	3.0	5.6	3.7	1.3	3.1	6.5	—	37.3	10.3	5.0
Institutional setting	2.6	3.0	1.9	2.3	1.5	2.5	1.1	11.1	2.4	17.3	2.9
Other	5.9	12.1	2.7	4.8	2.6	5.7	28.4	3.7	4.8	7.0	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	1,016	33	522	1,680	461	159	278	27	83	214	4,473

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 80
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 2,191
3. Percentages are based on valid values only
4. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
5. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table 6.12: Completed support periods in which clients received SAAP accommodation and institution or emergency accommodation ended was a main reason for assistance, by type of accommodation immediately after a support period, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/ accommodation after support	Type of housing/accommodation before support										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
SAAP accommodation	49.5	20.0	39.8	39.3	39.3	42.9	—	21.7	17.8	32.9	38.4
Non-SAAP emergency	1.4	60.0	3.4	1.1	6.7	—	—	—	0.8	—	2.0
Renting free	2.9	20.0	19.3	2.8	1.1	—	—	—	3.1	2.9	4.1
Private rental	8.3	—	2.3	10.5	10.1	5.7	—	—	5.4	—	7.3
Public housing	1.8	—	—	1.4	2.2	2.9	—	—	1.6	—	1.4
Community housing	—	—	—	0.4	1.1	2.9	—	—	—	—	0.3
Owner-occupied	—	—	—	—	1.1	—	—	4.3	0.8	—	0.3
Car/tent/park/street/squat	3.2	—	2.3	3.5	—	2.9	—	21.7	2.3	2.9	3.2
Institutional setting	32.1	—	31.8	37.9	36.0	40.0	100.0	52.2	65.1	48.6	40.4
Other	0.7	—	1.1	3.2	2.2	2.9	—	—	3.1	12.9	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	277	5	88	285	89	35	5	23	129	70	1,006

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 25
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 567
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 0
4. Percentages are based on valid values only
5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
6. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

7 Data issues with SAAP Client Data

Although the SAAP National Data Collection provides useful information on accommodation and related services for homeless people, it has a number of shortcomings that should be kept in mind when examining the housing situation of the homeless population.

The SAAP itself is not the only government response to the policy issue of homeless persons. There is a range of Commonwealth, State and local government activities outside the SAAP boundaries not included in the data reported for this project.

Incomplete coverage—agency non-participation and client non-consent

Agency non-participation and client non-consent are two main causes of incomplete response in the SAAP Client Collection. In both 1996–97and 1997–98 around 5% of agencies did not participate in the Collection and therefore no information was collected for their clients, and no conclusions can be drawn about the proportion of clients excluded from the database.

In 1996–97, of the forms from participating agencies, about 36% (54,000 forms) lacked either consent or a valid linkage key.[10] The corresponding figure for 1997–98 was 28%, or 43,900 forms. This non-consent problem has resulted in insufficient data to identify repeat use of services. This incomplete coverage directly affects the usefulness of current data. Three major consequences are:

- both non-participation by agencies and non-consent by clients has resulted in the under-estimation of the total number of support periods and the total number of clients;

- in particular, non-consent has resulted in a sizeable underestimation of the number of support periods with particular characteristics. For example, women escaping from domestic violence tend not to give consent to the recording of some data items, therefore the number of support periods in which clients were female was underestimated;[11] and

- mixed consent (see below for definition) causes downward bias in the distribution of the number of occasions of support per client.

Mixed consent

Mixed consent means that clients may consent to the recording of data items on some occasions of support and not on others. This problem only exists among multiple SAAP service users.

To illustrate this problem, during 1996–97 for 12,483 support periods valid alpha codes were provided even though consent was not given. Of these, some 36.6% (4,570) related to clients

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[10] For a small proportion of support periods for which consent is obtained, incomplete or invalid linkage keys are recorded.

[11] Sex is not a collectable item if client does not give consent to register this information.

who had given consent at some stage. This suggests that using only support periods with consent and valid alpha codes (linkage key) to estimate the number of support periods per client can lead to an underestimation. This also suggests that reporting patterns of repeat use from this type of data could be inaccurate.

Linkage key (alpha code)

The alpha code is designed to be a unique identification code used to enumerate the repeat use of services by clients. However, data problems with alpha codes were identified when examining accommodation periods for repeat users. Specifically, the alpha code used to identify repeat service usage by the same client is not as robust as anticipated making it more difficult to examine repeat users of SAAP services. For example, some client records with the same alpha code had different responses to data items such as country of birth, indicating that a more rigorous process is required to ensure data quality and appropriate tracking.

Recently a report on duplicates in the SAAP linkage key (Karmel 2000) has found that:

- in using the SAAP linkage key the duplication rate is expected to be around 5% for a group of around 2,000 people of the same sex and born in the same year;

- the SAAP linkage key becomes less effective for distinguishing between individuals, as the size of the year-of-birth/sex group of interest increases; and

- using the SAAP linkage key to examine SAAP usage by clients across a number of financial years could lead to a significant distortion. Too many support periods may be assigned to a small but significant proportion of individuals suggesting greater repeat use of services than is actually happening.

Support period versus accommodation period

From a housing assistance perspective, it is important to identify periods of accommodation support received by clients. This may differ from a support period—as explained in Box 2 in Chapter 1 a 'support period' is defined as an occasion of support provided to a SAAP client whereas an 'accommodation period' is recorded when a client receives SAAP accommodation. Support periods may have no accommodation period if the client only receives non-accommodation services. On the other hand, support periods may have one, two or more accommodation periods. Likewise the duration of accommodation support may or may not be the same as the duration of the support periods.

In the 1997–98 data, about 69% (108,139) of support periods involved accommodation. Of these, nearly 29% (31,054) did not have accommodation details since this information was not collected for high-volume agency clients. Of the remaining 77,085 support periods, 6,589 represented 'ongoing' clients at 30 June 1997. These clients need to be excluded from any analysis of duration of accommodation as no information was available on end date of accommodation or housing circumstances on departure from SAAP.

A further 2,847 support periods were identified to contain errors in the accommodation date—that is, either accommodation started before support began, or accommodation ended after support ended. In addition, 3,758 forms had missing values on accommodation start or end dates and 490 forms had errors in the length of accommodation or length of support.

By far the majority (96%) of closed support periods with accommodation involved just one period of accommodation and this proportion did not vary much across the States and

Territories (Table 7.1). A further 3.3% of closed support periods involved two periods of accommodation, while 1% all closed support periods involved three or more accommodation periods.

Table 7.1: Closed support periods with accommodation, total number of accommodation periods by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Total number of accommodation periods	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
One	96.5	95.6	95.6	96.6	95.0	94.3	97.3	92.5	95.8
Two	2.8	3.6	3.5	2.8	4.2	5.0	2.3	4.7	3.3
Three	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.5	0.6
Four	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.2
Five or more	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	21,380	10,752	11,685	9,128	5,404	3,056	2,261	2,731	66,397

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors or omission: 4,099
2. High-volume forms are excluded as appropriate accommodation information was not collected
3. Ongoing support periods are excluded as no end date for both accommodation and support periods
4. Percentages are based on valid values (valid accommodation start date and end date) only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

The difference between the duration of accommodation periods and support periods is shown in Table 7.2. Nearly 85% of accommodated support periods had the same duration of accommodation as duration of support. About 2.5% had a difference of one or two days. Of those clients who had same day duration of both accommodation and support, nearly 99% had only one accommodation period.

Improvements in the quality of duration of accommodation data will further improve the analysis of the housing needs of homeless people. In the 1997–98 Client Data Collection, there were 108,139 support periods in which clients were accommodated, but only 56% (60,849) had valid data on length of stay. Of the rest, 24% (25,849 forms) were from high-volume agencies for which the information on length of stay was not collected and 20% had invalid information recorded for this data item.

Table 7.2: Closed support periods, the difference between duration of support and duration of accommodation, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Number of days difference between support period duration and accommodation duration	Per cent of support periods
Same days (nil difference)	84.6
1 day	1.7
2 days	0.8
3 to 5 days	1.6
6 to 10 days	1.8
11–20 days	1.9
21–50 days	3.3
50–100 days	1.9
101– 500 days	2.0
Over 501 days	0.3
Total	100.0
Total number	63,401

Notes

1   Number of records excluded due to errors or omission: 4,099

2   High-volume forms are excluded as no such information was collected

3   Ongoing support periods are excluded as no end date for both accommodation and support periods

4   Percentages are based on valid values (valid accommodation start date and end date) only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Ongoing support periods at the end of a financial year

In the Client Data Collection, there is a data item that indicates whether clients are still receiving service at the end of the financial year. Theoretically we can use this information to merge data across two years—and so create a file that has **all** the support periods for clients who have at least one support period in a financial year. To do this, support periods, which relate to clients with an ongoing support period at the changeover of the financial year, can be appended to the file of the following financial year.

Table 7.3: Support periods with valid linkage keys that go across 30 June 1997

Data set		Group	Number of support periods	Number of agencies
1996–97	A	Support periods identified as ongoing on 30 June 1997	9,217	787
1997–98	B	Support periods starting before 1 July 1997	10,919	943
On matching	C	In A and B	6,018	691
On matching	D	In A only	3,199	627
On matching	E	In B only	4,901	782

However, a sizeable number of support periods which are ongoing at the end of the financial year do not appear in the file of the following year (and vice versa) (Table 7.3). More specifically, Table 7.3 shows that:

- a discrepancy exists between 1996–97 and 1997–98 data sets in relation to the number of support periods said to go across to the 30 June 1997. In fact, the 1997–98 data set has about 1,700 more such support periods;

- when forms are matched with respect to support period identifiers (SID), agency identifiers (AID) and support start date, forms for 3,199 ongoing support periods in 1996–97 could not be matched to support periods in 1997–98;

- when forms are matched on SID, AID and support start date, forms for 4,901 support periods in 1997–98 which started in 1996–97 could not be matched to support periods in 1996–97; and

- when forms are matched on SID, AID and support start date, forms for 6,018 ongoing support periods in 1996–97 were matched to support periods in 1997–98.

These numbers suggest that significant numbers of forms are not being returned as required for support periods ongoing at the end of the financial year, and that some forms are not being returned when a support period closes in the following financial year. Given this problem, and the problem of mixed consent, it is not possible to accurately estimate such things as 'total elapsed length of support' and 'return to crisis agencies' after some other event. Such improvements in the information could be useful, say, for longitudinal analysis.

The Unmet Demand Collection

The data collected from the two-week Unmet Demand Collection in 1997–98 has the following problems, which limit the usefulness of information on those turned away from SAAP agencies:

1. A linkage key (alpha code) was not available for all records in the Unmet Demand Collection, meaning that it is not possible to identify the number of people whose expressed need was no met. Therefore it is not possible to analyse the individual characteristics of all persons who made unsuccessful valid requests for supported accommodation.

2. Pro-rating the number of potential clients from the two-week collection period to a full year is invalid. A potential client who makes an unsuccessful request for accommodation support may also request accommodation outside of this two-week period. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the number of potential clients in a given year based on data from the two-week Unmet Demand Collection.

3. After people made an unsuccessful request for supported accommodation, it is possible that some of them may subsequently have received accommodation from a SAAP agency. Or they may have had their needs met by other means and no longer required SAAP assistance. This prevents the derivation of a reliable and accurate enumeration of unmet demand for SAAP services.

Differences among SAAP client groups

The SAAP client population is not homogeneous. Clients present with a diverse range of needs and circumstances. In particular, clients of 'proclaimed place' agencies (established to provide up to eight hours short-term shelter for intoxicated persons) have different needs and circumstances from those of clients of other SAAP agencies. In addition, different agencies complete different forms — either the short high-volume form or the longer general form. In 1997–98 there were 21,377 support periods, all located in New South Wales, in

which clients were from 'proclaimed place' agencies. Of these support periods, 77% were reported on high-volume forms and 23% on general forms.

Since the analyses presented in this report generally exclude support periods recorded on high-volume forms, they may not cover the full range of client needs and circumstances. Therefore caution should be taken when interpreting the results of these analyses.

Profiles of SAAP clients are presented in the tables following. Support periods have been grouped into 3 categories — 'proclaimed place', 'high-volume forms' (for non 'proclaimed place' clients) and 'other general forms' (for non 'proclaimed place' clients) according to the forms completed by their agencies.

In 1997–98, 151,347 occasions of support were reported by participating agencies. Of these the majority was general form clients (105,200) , with 25,600 high volume form clients and 20,500 proclaimed place form clients. The three different groups expressed different consent rates: 'proclaimed place' had the highest consent rate (84%), followed by 'other high-volume forms' (81%), and 'other general forms' (76%) (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4: Support periods, type of data group by consent rate, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Consent	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
Yes	84.4	80.7	76.2	78.1
No	15.6	19.3	23.8	21.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	20,510	25,597	105,240	151,347

Notes

1 Number of records excluded due to errors: 38

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 5,204

3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Of the 117,200 support periods for which client sex is known, male clients slightly outnumbered female clients. However, males dominated proclaimed place support periods (93%) and high-volume form support periods (79%). In contrast female clients outnumbered males in general form support periods (62% versus 38%) (Table 7.5).

Table 7.5: Support periods, type of data group by gender, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Gender	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
Female	7.1	21.2	61.9	46.8
Male	92.9	78.8	38.1	53.2
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total	17,192	20,483	79,511	117,186

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 81

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 864

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

'Proclaimed place' clients were generally older than both other high-volume and general form clients — of the 115,000 support periods where age was recorded a third of proclaimed place support periods were for clients aged 45 and more (Table 7.6). In contrast 18% of the high volume form clients and 10% of other general form support periods were for people aged 45 years and older. Younger people, aged less than 25 years, accounted for almost one-third (31%) of other high-volume forms and almost one-half (45%) of other general form, but only 9.5% of proclaimed place support periods.

Table 7.6: Support periods, type of data group by age, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Age	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
Under 15 years	0.0	0.3	2.2	1.5
15–19 years	1.5	13.5	25.7	20.0
20–24 years	8.0	17.0	16.8	15.5
25–44 years	56.3	51.0	44.9	47.7
45–65 years	29.5	15.5	9.0	13.2
65 years and over	4.7	2.6	1.4	2.1
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total	16,977	20,217	77,783	114,977

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,154

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

In terms of which specific client groups receive SAAP support, Table 7.7 shows that agencies targeting single men provided 26% of all support periods, followed by those targeting young people (24%) and those for women escaping domestic violence (22%). Furthermore, the primary target group was quite different among the three client data groups. In particular, of proclaimed place support periods, reflecting the particular nature of this data group, single men agencies provided 70%, whereas single men agencies represented only around half (54%) of other high-volume forms and 11% of other general form clients. In contrast agencies for women escaping domestic violence and young people each provided 29% of other general form support periods.

Table 7.7: Support periods, type of data group by primary target group, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Primary target group	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
Young people	5.1	14.9	29.3	23.6
Single men only	69.9	53.8	10.9	26.1
Single women only	0.0	0.0	3.0	2.1
Families	0.8	0.0	7.2	5.1
Women escaping DV	0.0	7.4	29.4	21.7
Cross target/ multiple/general	24.2	24.0	20.3	21.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	21,377	26,234	108,978	156,589

Note: Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table 7.8: Support periods, type of data group by presenting unit, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Presenting unit	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
Person alone	98.3	90.6	63.0	72.5
Couple without children	0.4	2.5	2.3	2.1
Person with children	0.9	4.9	29.1	21.2
Couple with children	0.2	1.6	4.3	3.2
Other	0.2	0.4	1.3	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	20,909	25,662	106,529	153,100

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 89

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,400

3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

More than 98% of proclaimed place support periods were for lone clients compared with 91% of other high-volume form support periods and only 63% of other general form support periods (Table 7.8). Thirty-three per cent of other general form support periods related to people with children. The three groups were also different from each other with respect to the type of housing or accommodation before support. Around 36% of proclaimed place support periods came from intoxicated persons who were living in a car, tent, park, street or squat prior to receiving support, compared with 23% of other high-volume form support periods, and 6% of the general form support periods (Table 7.9). And a further 31% of proclaimed place support periods came from clients previously living in SAAP accommodation, while only around 20% of other non proclaimed place clients were previously living in SAAP accommodation.

Table 7.9: Support periods, type of data group by type of housing or accommodation before support, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Type of housing/accommodation before support	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
SAAP accommodation	30.6	21.9	17.8	20.4
Non-SAAP emergency	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.7
Renting free	3.3	7.8	13.2	10.8
Private rental	13.2	23.4	36.9	31.1
Public housing	4.2	2.7	8.3	6.7
Community housing	2.6	0.9	2.5	2.2
Owner-occupied	0.8	1.4	4.7	3.6
Car/tent/park/street/squat	36.3	23.0	5.8	13.3
Institutional setting	4.2	5.6	4.2	4.5
Other	4.5	12.3	5.8	6.8
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**15,838**	**19,584**	**74,177**	**109,599**

Notes

1.   Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,500

2.   Number of records excluded due to omissions: 7,032

3.   Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4.   Percentages are based on valid values only

5.   Private rental includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Again reflecting the specific role of proclaimed places—to provide short-term shelter to intoxicated persons requiring assistance—a very high proportion (97%) of proclaimed place clients were accommodated (Table 7.10). In contrast, two-thirds (66%) of other general form clients and 58% of other high-volume form clients were accommodated.

Table 7.10: Support periods, type of data group by whether clients were accommodated, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Accommodation provided	Proclaimed place	Other high-volume	Other general	Total
No	3.1	42.1	33.7	30.9
Yes	96.9	57.9	66.3	69.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	21,377	26,234	108,978	156,589

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 38

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 5,204

3. Percentages are based on valid values only

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98

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Glossary

Agency

An organisation or establishment which receives a specified amount of SAAP funds to provide services.

Housing type

The SAAP NDCA Client Collection specifies 22 distinct categories for the housing type of clients. In this report, the categories are combined into 10 groups as follows:

- SAAP accommodation—comprising SAAP/CAP funded crisis or short-term accommodation and medium- to long-term accommodation and other SAAP or CAP funded accommodation.
- non-SAAP emergency accommodation.
- renting free.
- private rental—comprising renting independently in the private rental market, renting a caravan, boarding in a private home.
- owner-occupied—comprising purchasing or living in the client's own home.
- public housing.
- community housing.
- institutional setting—comprising residing at a hospital, psychiatric institution, prison, youth training centre, detoxification unit or rehabilitation centre, and any other government residential arrangement or other institutional setting not specified above.
- car/tent/park/street/squat —refers to living in a car or tent or park or street or squat.
- other—comprising boarding in a rooming house or hostel or hotel, other non-SAAP housing or accommodation.

Main reason for seeking assistance

The SAAP NDCA Client Collection specifies 16 distinct categories for the main reason for seeking assistance. In this report, the categories are combined into 9 groups as follows:

- Financial difficulty.
- Eviction—including usual accommodation unavailable, eviction, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave.
- Abuse—including physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse and drug or alcohol or substance abuse.
- Left institution—including emergency accommodation ended and recently left institution.
- Itinerant—including move from interstate.
- Psychiatric illness—including psychiatric illness and interpersonal conflicts.

- Domestic violence.
- Family breakdown—combining two categories which include 'time out from family or other situation' and 'relationship or family breakdown'.
- Other—other reasons not specified above.

Appendix 1: Tables

Table A3.1: Support periods, sex by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodated									
Female	30.1	57.6	40	61.3	41.2	52.1	38.4	41.5	40.9
Male	69.9	42.4	60	38.7	58.8	47.9	61.6	58.5	59.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	36,086	12,435	13,455	8,022	6,530	2,804	2,166	3,072	84,570
Not accommodated									
Female	64.8	61.8	62.5	81.7	49.9	58.1	68.5	64.9	62.0
Male	35.2	38.2	37.5	18.3	50.1	41.9	31.5	35.1	38.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	4,363	18,966	3,195	1,179	2,938	944	238	793	32,616
Total number	40,449	31,401	16,650	9,201	9,468	3,748	2,404	3,865	117,186

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 81

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 864

3. Sex was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 38,458 records excluded because consent was not obtained

4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.2: Support periods, age by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
					Accommodated				
Under 15 years	1.8	0.5	1.9	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.9	0.5	1.4
15–19 years	12.7	27.5	23.2	14.6	19.7	25.4	24.6	11.6	18.0
20–24 years	10.6	20.4	14.2	16.5	17.2	20.6	14.5	13.5	14.2
25–44 years	51.5	42.1	46.6	56.5	50.8	42.3	44.5	58.7	49.5
45–65 years	20.1	8.3	12.4	10.3	10.1	9.2	12.4	13.7	14.6
65 years and over	3.3	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	35,798	12,289	13,259	7,822	6,462	2,772	2,159	2,992	83,553
					Not accommodated				
Under 15 years	2.9	1.3	3.6	0.4	3.5	2.7	3.0	4.7	2.0
15–19 years	29.8	23.1	25.1	15.7	26.7	35.0	44.9	47.5	25.3
20–24 years	12.7	21.0	19.9	11.6	16.4	20.4	17.4	23.3	19.1
25–44 years	42.4	44.3	41.0	55.2	40.3	31.4	29.2	19.2	42.7
45–65 years	10.5	8.9	9.3	13.6	10.9	9.1	4.7	5.1	9.4
65 years and over	1.7	1.4	1.1	3.5	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.3	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	4,106	18,424	3,080	1,119	2,880	849	236	730	31,424
Total number	**39,904**	**30,713**	**16,339**	**8,941**	**9,342**	**3,621**	**2,395**	**3,722**	**114,977**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,154

3. Age was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 38,458 records excluded because consent was not obtained

4. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.3: Support periods, family type by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98(%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
					Accommodated				
Person alone	86.0	69.1	73.7	61.9	72.6	72.2	86.8	75.7	77.4
Couple without children	0.6	3.1	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.2
Person with children	11.9	22.2	21.1	33.1	22.0	22.7	10.5	20.9	18.3
Couple with children	0.9	3.9	3.8	2.4	3.6	3.2	0.7	2.0	2.3
Other	0.6	1.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	44,975	15,687	18,062	9,849	7,834	3,358	2,610	3,839	106,214
					Not accommodated				
Person alone	67.2	57.4	63.1	43.6	67.9	73.3	67.2	67.3	61.3
Couple without children	2.6	5.1	2.9	3.1	3.4	4.5	2.1	3.4	4.1
Person with children	25.5	29.6	27.5	44.1	22.9	16.8	22.4	19.5	27.6
Couple with children	3.4	6.0	5.6	7.9	4.8	3.9	5.4	7.3	5.4
Other	1.3	1.8	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.5	3.0	2.5	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	6,506	23,252	6,834	1,789	4,232	2,427	536	1,310	46,886
Total number	51,481	38,939	24,896	11,638	12,066	5,785	3,146	5,149	153,100

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 89

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,400

3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.4: Support periods, primary target group by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodated									
Young people	16.0	28.4	23.2	14.2	23.3	27.8	20.8	10.0	19.7
Single men only	45.7	19.3	35.6	14.7	39.5	24.0	19.7	38.4	35.2
Single women only	1.0	3.6	1.2	3.6	6.4	4.4	0.0	3.4	2.2
Families	3.5	6.1	7.3	3.2	9.4	4.9	1.8	0.8	4.9
Women escaping DV	16.0	19.0	20.8	45.9	16.2	28.8	15.6	34.0	21.1
Cross target/ multiple/general	17.7	23.7	11.9	18.5	5.2	10.1	42.1	13.4	17.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	45,911	15,850	18,392	10,053	7,938	3,470	2,632	3,893	108,139
Not accommodated									
Young people	40.7	26.8	38.5	11.7	38.6	32.7	33.2	64.1	32.4
Single men only	10.6	3.1	17.0	0.1	3.4	0.2	1.1	0.2	5.8
Single women only	4.1	2.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7
Families	2.3	4.5	6.9	26.9	10.2	0.1	15.4	0.1	5.7
Women escaping DV	36.2	21.8	27.0	40.3	14.4	2.6	7.0	7.8	23.0
Cross target/ multiple/general	6.3	41.8	10.3	20.8	33.2	64.4	43.4	27.5	31.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	6,782	23,759	7,183	1,862	4,377	2,593	546	1,348	48,450
Total number	52,693	39,609	25,575	11,915	12,315	6,063	3,178	5,241	156,589

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 0

3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.5: Support periods, main reason for seeking assistance by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodation-related reasons				Accommodated					
Financial difficulty	12.1	6.0	18.9	12.6	12.7	9.9	7.7	19.0	12.1
Eviction	13.7	15.6	17.1	9.0	14.0	17.4	18.0	10.5	14.2
Left institution	3.9	4.0	2.7	2.0	4.9	2.6	4.4	1.2	3.4
Itinerant	10.7	10.2	9.7	6.3	11.9	12.7	13.2	11.0	10.2
Social reasons									
Family breakdown	16.9	17.6	18.1	12.7	16.9	18.8	19.3	10.2	16.6
Psychiatric illness	4.1	5.5	3.7	3.6	4.4	5.3	7.3	2.6	4.4
Domestic violence	19.9	26.2	20.1	29.9	22.4	18.7	11.6	30.0	22.7
Abuse	15.1	10.5	6.0	20.6	8.6	10.7	13.7	9.3	12.4
Other	3.6	4.5	3.9	3.2	4.2	3.9	4.7	6.2	4.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*16,305*	*10,272*	*8,534*	*6,885*	*4,577*	*2,345*	*1,969*	*1,983*	*52,870*
Accommodation-related reasons				Not accommodated					
Financial difficulty	17.3	14.2	26.9	7.8	15.9	21.2	7.9	37.7	16.7
Eviction	10.9	13.2	9.5	11.5	12.1	17.4	7.9	6.1	12.3
Left institution	1.9	1.9	1.0	0.5	2.7	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.8
Itinerant	5.8	6.0	5.0	4.4	5.5	8.4	2.5	6.3	5.8
Non-accommodation-related									
Family breakdown	18.0	13.3	17.1	10.2	13.2	14.8	11.9	15.9	14.2
Psychiatric illness	6.1	4.9	10.5	3.9	8.7	5.3	4.5	3.6	5.8
Domestic violence	17.3	14.2	26.9	7.8	15.9	21.2	7.9	37.7	16.7
Abuse	19.3	32.2	12.6	37.2	26.6	2.2	11.9	7.7	26.4
Other	13.1	8.7	11.7	14.9	7.5	11.0	35.1	10.6	10.1
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*2,522*	*12,071*	*2,017*	*967*	*1,346*	*736*	*202*	*716*	*20,577*
Total number	**18,827**	**22,343**	**10,551**	**7,852**	**5,923**	**3,081**	**2,171**	**2,699**	**73,447**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 926

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 10,003

3. 'The main reason for seeking assistance' was not known for support periods in which consent was not given. 29,464 records were excluded

4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749

5. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.6: Support periods, the type of housing/accommodation before by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
					Accommodated				
SAAP accommodation	29.4	22.8	17.3	18.1	20.8	18.1	27.7	18.1	23.9
Non-SAAP emergency	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.6
Renting free	8.3	14.4	10.2	7.1	10.5	9.9	17.1	11.1	10.0
Private rental	20.4	33.5	39.4	31.9	29.7	39.1	22.2	15.1	27.7
Public housing	4.7	4.9	3.8	12.3	7.1	11.2	11.1	5.0	5.9
Community housing	2.0	0.8	1.6	6.7	1.3	1.4	1.1	12.1	2.5
Owner-occupied	1.8	4.1	2.3	4.1	3.4	3.9	1.9	1.3	2.6
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	22.9	6.9	10.7	6.8	11.7	6.8	5.4	22.5	15.2
Institutional setting	5.5	4.4	5.4	4.9	7.1	4.9	6.2	4.9	5.4
Other	4.6	7.0	9.0	7.7	7.8	4.1	5.8	9.2	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	34,044	11,890	12,983	7,300	6,324	2,572	2,139	2,957	80,209
					Not accommodated				
SAAP accommodation	12.5	10.4	8.3	7.9	15.4	10.7	14.2	10.1	10.9
Non-SAAP emergency	0.5	1.4	0.4	0.3	1.8	0.2	0.5	1.5	1.2
Renting free	14.3	12.9	12.6	7.1	15.4	15.0	16.1	15.1	13.2
Private rental	39.8	41.3	48.5	46.3	26.1	44.0	31.2	35.2	40.4
Public housing	7.9	7.5	7.9	17.5	12.8	12.0	19.3	15.8	8.9
Community housing	3.0	0.9	1.8	1.2	2.5	1.0	0.9	3.7	1.5
Owner-occupied	9.5	5.9	4.4	12.8	4.4	4.3	5.0	1.8	6.1
Car/tent/park/ street/squat	6.6	8.1	8.1	1.8	11.5	5.2	2.8	10.1	8.0
Institutional setting	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	3.0	3.2	7.8	2.1	2.1
Other	4.0	9.7	6.1	3.3	7.0	4.2	2.3	4.7	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	3,642	17,304	2,849	1,070	2,825	806	218	676	29,390
Total number	**37,686**	**29,194**	**15,832**	**8,370**	**9,149**	**3,378**	**2,357**	**3,633**	**109,599**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,500

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions. 7,032

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4. Percentages are based on valid values only

5. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection. 1997–98.

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Table A3.7: Support periods, length of support period, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
				Accommodated					
Less than 1 day	10.0	6.5	4.2	6.7	2.1	4.5	3.3	6.3	7.2
1–3 days	45.1	18.3	33.3	45.0	31.7	30.2	36.1	45.1	37.8
4–7 days	11.8	9.5	16.4	14.5	14.3	16.0	12.1	17.2	13.1
>1–2 weeks	8.6	10.5	13.5	10.5	13.3	15.0	13.2	10.2	10.6
>2–4 weeks	7.4	12.5	10.5	7.6	11.7	11.1	11.0	8.1	9.2
>4–13 weeks	11.4	21.9	14.1	9.9	14.0	15.1	12.8	8.7	13.4
>13–26 weeks	3.0	9.4	5.0	2.9	5.9	4.0	5.2	2.3	4.5
>26–52 weeks	1.5	6.6	2.0	1.8	4.0	2.4	3.4	1.2	2.5
>52 weeks	1.3	4.8	1.0	1.3	3.1	1.7	2.9	0.8	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	42,792	13,253	16,858	9,223	6,974	3,141	2,270	3,694	98,205
				Not accommodated					
Less than 1 day	47.4	42.7	50.8	22.1	38.6	37.0	21.5	59.2	43.5
1–3 days	9.9	5.4	8.9	5.5	7.8	6.5	3.3	3.4	6.7
4–7 days	4.2	4.1	5.8	4.8	6.8	5.7	4.1	1.6	4.7
>1–2 weeks	3.8	4.9	5.2	5.3	7.9	8.4	8.9	4.7	5.3
>2–4 weeks	5.4	8.4	5.9	8.5	8.0	7.0	10.4	7.0	7.5
>4–13 weeks	14.7	20.6	15.6	28.0	15.4	18.8	23.4	17.4	18.6
>13–26 weeks	6.6	8.4	4.5	15.5	7.8	8.9	14.1	4.4	7.7
>26–52 weeks	4.0	3.6	2.3	6.3	4.4	5.0	8.9	1.4	3.7
>52 weeks	4.1	1.9	1.0	3.9	3.1	2.7	5.4	0.9	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	5,954	21,216	6,484	1,424	3,826	2,213	461	1,251	42,829
Total number	48,746	34,469	23,342	10,647	10,800	5,354	2,731	4,945	141,034

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,053
3. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.8: Support periods, income source, by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodated									
No income	9.9	12.0	11.8	8.3	8.3	8.7	12.6	9.1	10.3
Government payments	84.2	80.7	81.9	84.0	86.4	86.3	80.6	82.8	83.4
Other income	5.9	7.3	6.3	7.7	5.3	5.0	6.9	8.1	6.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*34,944*	*12,051*	*13,057*	*7,622*	*6,353*	*2,694*	*2,143*	*2,960*	*81,824*
Not accommodated									
No income	14.2	10.7	13.6	8.2	13.6	8.6	18.2	27.3	12.0
Government payments	70.4	80.7	75.1	72.2	79.5	81.7	67.8	59.4	77.9
Other income	15.4	8.7	11.3	19.6	6.9	9.7	14.0	13.3	10.1
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*3,651*	*17,508*	*2,942*	*1,063*	*2,867*	*824*	*214*	*700*	*29,769*
Total number	**38,595**	**29,559**	**15,999**	**8,685**	**9,220**	**3,518**	**2,357**	**3,660**	**111,593**

Notes

1.   Number of records excluded due to errors: 2,264

2.   Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,274

3.   Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 38,458

4.   Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.9: Support periods, labour force status before support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
					Accommodated				
Employed	7.2	8.6	8.8	9.4	7.1	4.6	7.5	14.6	8.2
Unemployed	37.9	38.5	39.9	36.2	38.1	39.6	44.5	40.9	38.6
Not in labour force	54.8	52.9	51.2	54.5	54.7	55.8	48.1	44.5	53.3
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*18,498*	*10,959*	*9,150*	*7,517*	*4,981*	*2,678*	*2,150*	*2,079*	*58,012*
					Not accommodated				
Employed	13.6	11.1	13.6	17.4	11.4	11.8	18.2	16.9	12.3
Unemployed	30.8	30.3	34.0	26.7	24.1	44.1	25.9	45.3	31.1
Not in labour force	55.7	58.6	52.4	55.9	64.5	44.1	55.9	37.9	56.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	*2,697*	*12,338*	*2,266*	*1,075*	*1,469*	*835*	*220*	*720*	*21,620*
Total number	**21,195**	**23,297**	**11,416**	**8,592**	**6,450**	**3,513**	**2,370**	**2,799**	**79,632**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 57

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 4,687

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464

4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749

5 Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.10: Support periods, the duration of current homelessness by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
					Accommodated				
Less than 4 weeks	46.2	28.6	42.3	44.9	35.7	54.9	36.3	52.7	41.4
4–25 weeks	15.9	21.5	17.3	11.4	19.6	16.1	20.0	16.3	17.2
26–51 weeks	4.8	7.3	5.2	3.1	6.9	4.8	7.0	3.1	5.4
One year longer	18.1	20.0	15.3	10.8	23.4	8.3	19.6	9.8	17.0
At imminent risk	15.0	22.5	19.9	29.8	14.3	15.9	17.2	18.0	19.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	15,146	8,694	7,271	5,112	4,172	2,122	1,840	1,579	45,936
					Not accommodated				
Less than 4 weeks	12.5	16.4	16.5	12.8	12.1	39.9	9.1	19.9	16.4
4–25 weeks	13.8	20.4	12.5	13.1	19.1	24.0	18.3	16.9	18.3
26–51 weeks	4.7	6.8	4.3	4.7	6.3	4.9	9.1	5.6	6.0
One year longer	15.4	18.1	9.7	14.6	31.2	7.3	24.4	13.7	17.2
At imminent risk	53.6	38.3	56.9	54.8	31.4	24.0	39.0	43.9	42.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	2,068	8,682	1,468	787	1,100	617	164	408	15,294
Total number	17,214	17,376	8,739	5,899	5,272	2,739	2,004	1,987	61,230

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 0

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 23,146

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464

4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749

5. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A3.11: Support periods, the living situation before support by State and Territory, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Accommodated									
With one or both parents	13.8	13.6	12.3	9.5	11.7	13.7	14.8	8.1	12.6
With relative/friend long term	3.8	3.1	3.3	4.8	2.2	3.6	2.3	8.3	3.7
With relative/friend short term	16.7	18.5	21.7	18.2	21.5	19.9	18.7	17.2	18.7
With partner, with/without children	20.2	26.9	24.0	29.4	22.4	24.3	13.6	28.5	23.7
Alone or with children	22.7	20.5	20.4	21.2	20.6	21.2	23.4	25.5	21.6
Other	22.7	17.5	18.3	17.0	21.5	17.3	27.2	12.3	19.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	18,424	11,104	9,208	7,717	4,986	2,690	2,159	2,099	58,387
Not accommodated									
With one or both parents	22.6	13.7	19.0	6.4	19.1	14.9	14.4	13.8	15.4
With relative/friend long term	4.6	3.3	4.7	3.0	3.3	4.8	5.1	10.9	3.9
With relative/friend short term	15.7	15.7	18.0	13.6	17.5	19.4	23.6	25.9	16.5
With partner, with/without children	20.5	27.9	23.0	29.6	21.2	17.4	18.1	19.1	25.4
Alone or with children	26.4	29.5	23.0	39.3	30.5	29.4	21.3	16.3	28.5
Other	10.2	9.9	12.4	8.0	8.4	14.1	17.6	13.9	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	2,747	12,884	2,209	1,131	1,495	860	216	717	22,259
Total number	**21,171**	**23,988**	**11,417**	**8,848**	**6,481**	**3,550**	**2,375**	**2,816**	**80,646**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 439
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 3,291
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 29,464.
4. Number of high-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume form: 42,749
5. Percentages are based on valid values only.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.1: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, lived in public housing before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98

Main reason for seeking assistance	Housing/accommodation status before support	
	Public housing	Total
Housing related reasons		
Financial difficulty	13.3	12.6
Eviction	19.4	15.8
Left institution	0.7	3.5
Itinerant	8.1	10.0
Social reasons		
Family breakdown	16.0	16.8
Psychiatric illness	4.3	4.5
Domestic violence	24.0	22.7
Abuse	9.1	10.7
Other	5.0	4.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**20,958**	**57,886**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.2: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, lived in private rental accommodation before support, main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	Housing/accommodation status before support	
	Private rental	Total
Housing-related reasons		
Financial difficulty	6.4	12.6
Eviction	10.7	15.8
Left institution	0.6	3.5
Itinerant	4.6	10.0
Social reasons		
Family breakdown	13.4	16.8
Psychiatric illness	4.1	4.5
Domestic violence	42.9	22.7
Abuse	11.7	10.7
Other	5.7	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0
Total number	4,153	57,886

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table 4.4: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	10.2	11.1	8.1	13.3	6.4	8.3	2.4	27.1	9.7	27.3	12.6
Eviction	17.0	12.6	17.0	19.4	10.7	8.0	3.3	11.5	8.6	16.1	15.8
Left institution	6.9	9.3	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.6	28.8	2.0	3.5
Itinerant	11.9	16.5	9.8	8.1	4.6	5.2	1.8	23.9	5.6	16.5	10.0
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	17.4	13.0	33.5	16.0	13.4	12.6	12.9	10.2	6.3	8.2	16.8
Psychiatric illness	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.1	3.6	1.6	4.2	7.4	5.5	4.5
Domestic violence	18.7	20.4	12.5	24.0	42.9	43.5	64.8	4.4	3.3	8.1	22.7
Abuse	9.4	8.7	9.4	9.1	11.7	14.6	9.7	13.7	24.2	11.2	10.7
Other	4.1	3.5	3.8	5.0	5.7	3.8	3.4	3.4	6.1	5.1	4.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**10,844**	**461**	**7,568**	**20,958**	**4,153**	**1,466**	**2,091**	**4,045**	**2,818**	**3,482**	**57,886**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4a: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, New South Wales, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	11.0	21.6	8.6	12.3	6.2	9.0	1.7	29.3	10.2	23.3	12.5
Eviction	18.0	8.2	16.6	15.1	10.4	12.2	2.4	11.1	7.1	15.6	14.4
Left institution	7.2	14.4	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.2	2.0	25.0	3.2	4.1
Itinerant	11.1	10.3	10.1	8.6	4.8	5.1	2.6	25.8	5.5	19.5	10.5
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	18.4	9.3	35.9	15.2	12.7	10.6	15.5	9.8	4.1	10.6	17.1
Psychiatric illness	4.2	3.1	3.5	4.5	3.4	3.5	2.2	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.1
Domestic violence	14.9	16.5	10.8	26.5	39.6	36.9	59.4	2.8	2.3	7.9	19.4
Abuse	11.6	13.4	10.7	13.4	16.7	18.9	11.8	12.0	36.5	12.2	14.2
Other	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.8	5.6	3.5	4.3	2.8	5.2	3.6	3.7
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**3,762**	**97**	**2,110**	**5,005**	**1,062**	**312**	**465**	**1,200**	**997**	**776**	**15,786**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

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Table A4.4b: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Victoria, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	Client group										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	4.8	6.5	4.6	10.1	5.3	8.3	2.7	11.6	2.1	12.7	7.7
Eviction	15.8	12.9	17.2	23.7	10.9	15.0	4.5	16.3	9.1	19.7	18.5
Left institution	8.1	8.1	1.2	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.3	1.9	39.4	2.8	3.7
Itinerant	11.2	19.9	10.5	7.2	3.4	4.2	1.1	29.7	5.2	19.3	9.9
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	18.5	12.9	31.7	15.6	11.5	13.3	12.4	14.7	7.9	8.7	17.4
Psychiatric illness	6.0	5.4	5.9	4.8	4.2	5.8	1.3	4.1	9.6	7.3	5.3
Domestic violence	21.1	23.7	15.5	25.8	47.0	40.0	70.3	5.6	3.4	10.4	23.9
Abuse	9.9	5.9	9.1	5.6	8.8	10.8	5.6	12.2	16.0	11.9	8.2
Other	4.6	4.8	4.2	6.3	8.7	1.7	2.0	4.0	7.2	7.2	5.6
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**2,493**	**186**	**2,431**	**6,417**	**872**	**120**	**716**	**846**	**581**	**919**	**15,581**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4c: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Queensland, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	12.5	11.5	12.7	21.6	11.0	7.4	4.5	37.3	18.8	42.5	20.0
Eviction	19.6	9.6	18.5	19.9	15.8	14.2	2.9	12.1	9.0	17.9	17.8
Left institution	6.1	7.7	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.3	31.4	1.3	2.7
Itinerant	12.8	19.2	7.7	8.1	6.2	4.3	1.2	22.1	4.3	14.1	9.9
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	18.4	19.2	38.4	16.1	13.9	18.5	15.3	11.8	9.7	6.9	18.1
Psychiatric illness	4.1	1.9	4.6	3.7	2.9	1.2	2.5	2.7	7.9	2.9	3.8
Domestic violence	18.2	21.2	7.0	20.3	40.8	35.2	58.7	3.4	3.2	5.5	17.8
Abuse	4.4	9.6	4.9	5.8	6.2	12.3	11.6	6.4	10.1	3.8	5.8
Other	3.9	0.0	4.9	3.8	3.2	6.2	3.3	3.0	5.4	5.1	4.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**1,524**	**52**	**1,059**	**3,765**	**373**	**162**	**242**	**638**	**277**	**548**	**8,640**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4d: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Western Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	12.4	4.0	11.2	12.2	6.1	13.5	1.1	25.6	10.8	39.3	13.7
Eviction	14.6	4.0	13.2	13.8	4.8	3.9	0.4	6.1	9.5	9.0	10.4
Left institution	4.5	8.0	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.7	21.7	0.2	2.1
Itinerant	7.7	0.0	9.8	5.2	2.7	6.4	0.7	13.7	6.4	8.4	6.4
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	12.6	28.0	28.6	15.1	11.3	12.7	9.6	4.6	6.1	7.1	13.3
Psychiatric illness	3.1	8.0	2.8	4.1	3.2	2.5	1.4	4.1	12.9	2.8	3.8
Domestic violence	29.2	36.0	14.6	27.5	53.4	41.4	66.4	5.6	3.7	9.0	28.7
Abuse	11.2	8.0	16.4	16.5	13.7	17.2	13.6	36.8	25.4	20.6	17.2
Other	4.7	4.0	2.6	5.3	4.5	2.2	6.8	2.7	3.4	3.6	4.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**1,019**	**25**	**500**	**2,115**	**776**	**408**	**280**	**410**	**295**	**466**	**6,294**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

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Table A4.4e: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, South Australia, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	13.1	13.5	7.7	9.9	3.8	6.1	1.8	35.2	13.6	28.8	13.1
Eviction	11.5	5.4	19.5	20.8	12.3	11.0	2.3	11.1	7.3	14.9	15.1
Left institution	7.7	18.9	2.2	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	2.2	33.6	1.6	5.0
Itinerant	12.9	18.9	8.3	11.2	5.2	13.4	1.8	22.4	7.3	16.0	11.4
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	14.4	10.8	34.4	18.4	18.0	8.5	8.6	6.7	7.9	9.2	16.3
Psychiatric illness	3.8	2.7	5.5	4.1	4.5	11.0	0.9	4.2	8.2	8.4	4.8
Domestic violence	24.2	10.8	11.8	21.8	43.6	34.1	75.7	2.5	4.2	6.8	21.7
Abuse	7.3	10.8	8.3	7.6	7.1	8.5	7.2	13.3	9.4	9.5	8.4
Other	5.1	8.1	2.4	4.3	3.8	7.3	1.8	2.5	8.5	4.6	4.3
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**846**	**37**	**508**	**1,689**	**422**	**82**	**222**	**406**	**330**	**368**	**4,910**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4f: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Tasmania, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	Client group										
	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	8.8	0.0	13.4	12.4	5.3	3.0	2.1	25.3	6.7	26.8	11.9
Eviction	16.4	26.7	19.5	23.4	13.3	12.1	8.5	11.8	12.5	17.0	18.5
Left institution	6.5	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	23.3	0.0	2.7
Itinerant	17.6	20.0	14.4	10.2	5.3	12.1	1.1	28.5	5.0	19.6	12.6
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	21.7	13.3	28.5	20.3	16.3	18.2	17.0	11.8	7.5	8.0	19.1
Psychiatric illness	4.3	6.7	4.7	4.2	5.7	6.1	1.1	3.8	15.8	14.3	5.3
Domestic violence	10.8	33.3	6.0	15.8	35.7	18.2	53.2	1.6	1.7	2.7	15.2
Abuse	8.6	0.0	7.7	7.8	12.2	24.2	13.8	12.4	25.0	4.5	9.7
Other	5.3	0.0	4.4	5.2	5.7	6.1	3.2	4.3	2.5	7.1	4.9
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**397**	**15**	**298**	**1,028**	**263**	**33**	**94**	**186**	**120**	**112**	**2,546**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4g: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Australian Capital Territory, 1997–98 (%)

Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	8.3	10.3	4.2	10.1	3.1	9.1	2.6	13.5	3.3	20.8	7.9
Eviction	21.0	31.0	16.8	16.5	20.7	13.6	7.7	13.5	13.9	14.9	17.8
Left institution	6.2	3.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	4.5	2.6	2.7	27.0	2.0	4.4
Itinerant	13.7	10.3	9.0	11.4	7.9	4.5	15.4	27.9	7.4	23.8	12.4
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	17.7	10.3	38.7	15.8	19.8	31.8	12.8	6.3	5.7	4.0	19.1
Psychiatric illness	6.0	13.8	5.6	5.9	11.0	9.1	5.1	10.8	5.7	10.9	7.1
Domestic violence	14.1	10.3	8.1	15.2	18.5	4.5	33.3	3.6	1.6	3.0	12.1
Abuse	9.4	10.3	10.9	16.2	9.7	4.5	17.9	11.7	29.5	16.8	13.2
Other	3.7	0.0	5.3	7.4	7.5	18.2	2.6	9.9	5.7	4.0	5.8
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	**519**	**29**	**357**	**474**	**227**	**22**	**39**	**111**	**122**	**101**	**2,001**

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612

2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769

3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245

4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms

5. Percentages are based on valid values only

6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Table A4.4h: Support periods in which client required housing and accommodation support, main reason for seeking assistance by the housing status when entered, Northern Territory, 1997–98 (%)

	Client group										
Main reason for seeking assistance	SAAP accommodation	Non-SAAP emergency	Renting free	Private rental	Public housing	Community housing	Owner-occupied	Car/tent/park/ street/squat	Institution setting	Other	Total
Housing-related reasons											
Financial difficulty	21.5	15.0	11.1	22.6	17.1	2.8	6.1	39.5	17.7	42.2	20.5
Eviction	18.0	25.0	12.8	16.3	7.0	2.1	3.0	4.8	9.4	14.6	11.2
Left institution	3.9	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.8	10.4	1.6	1.6
Itinerant	23.6	30.0	7.2	9.0	7.0	1.8	3.0	13.3	4.2	12.5	10.2
Social reasons											
Family breakdown	9.5	5.0	19.0	13.3	10.1	10.4	15.2	9.3	4.2	3.6	11.1
Psychiatric illness	1.4	5.0	5.2	2.6	1.9	3.1	0.0	4.0	0.0	2.1	2.8
Domestic violence	14.1	10.0	29.8	19.8	39.9	65.1	48.5	13.3	12.5	11.5	27.4
Abuse	3.9	10.0	9.5	6.5	12.0	11.0	18.2	10.1	27.1	6.8	9.3
Other	4.2	0.0	4.9	9.0	4.4	3.4	6.1	4.8	14.6	5.2	5.9
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Total number	284	20	305	465	158	327	33	248	96	192	2,128

Notes

1. Number of records excluded due to errors: 1,612
2. Number of records excluded due to omissions: 9,769
3. Number of records excluded because consent was not obtained: 19,245
4. High-volume records excluded as not all items were included on high-volume forms
5. Percentages are based on valid values only
6. 'Private rental' includes renting in the private rental market, renting a caravan and boarding in a private home. For detail of each category please see Glossary.
7. 'Eviction' includes eviction, usual accommodation unavailable, previous accommodation ended or asked to leave. For detail of each category please see Glossary.

Source: SAAP NDCA Client Collection, 1997–98.

Appendix 2: A list of data items contained in the 1997–98 Client Collection

Client Collection: data items available for each support period of each adult or unaccompanied child, by form type and consent, with percentage missing for 1997–98

Data item	General form			High-volume form		
	Collected with consent	Collected without consent	Missing data (%)[a]	Collected with consent	Collected without consent	Missing data (%)[a]
Agency level data						
Agency identifier	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
State/Territory	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
Primary target group	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
Service delivery model	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
Region of agency	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
Support period start date	✔	✔	0.0	✔	✔	0
Support period end date	✔	✔	12.2	✔	✔	4.0
Ongoing at end of reporting period	✔	✔	0	✔	✔	0
Whether consent obtained	✔	✔	3.5	✔	✔	3.0
Linkage key	✔	✘	23.4	✔	✘	19.9
Source of referral/information	✔	✔	2.2	✘	✘	100
Presenting unit of person(s) receiving assistance	✔	✔	2.2	✔	✔	2.2
Number of accompanying children in age groups 0–4, 5–12, 13–15 and 16–17 (most missing mean zero)	✔	✔	Over 80%	✔	✔	Over 97%
Gender	✔	from 1998–99	26.5	✔	✔	21.6
Year of birth	✔	✘	28.1	✔	✘	22.6
Country of birth	✔	✘	27.9	✔	✘	23.3
Aboriginal or Torres Islander	✔	✘	27.5	✔	✘	23.6
Ethnicity	✔	✘	29.1	✔	✘	25.0
Cultural identity	✔	✘	29.4	✘	✘	100
Status immediately before (B) and after (A) support period			B A			
Labour force status	✔	✘	30 46	✘	✘	100
Primary income source	✔	✘	30 48	(before) ✔	✘	25.0
Student status	✔	✘	32 47	✘	✘	100
Living situation	✔	✘	29 52	✘	✘	100
Type of housing/accommodation	✔	✘	31 54	(before) ✔	✘	
Involvement in legal processes	✔	✘	37 54	✘	✘	100
Receipt of supplementary government payments	✔	✘	38 52	✘	✘	100
Reasons for seeking assistance	✔	✘	29.0	✘	✘	100
Main reason for seeking assistance	✔	✘	35.5	✘	✘	100
Current period of unsafe, insecure or inadequate housing	✔	✘	46.2	✘	✘	100
Location before current period of unsafe, insecure or inadequate housing	✔	✘	e.g. 68.1	✘	✘	100
Has a case management/support plan been agreed to during the support period	✔	✔	7.4	✘	✘	100
Support to the client: whether needed, provided, and/or referred (includes accommodation)	✔	✔	. .	✔	✔	. .
Types and dates of SAAP accommodation provided to the client	✔	✔	e.g. 40.9	✘	✘	100
Assistance to accompanying children: whether needed, provided, and/or referred	✔	✔	. .	✘	✘	. .
Total number of support periods in Collection	113,840		. .	42,749		. .

(a) This is the per cent of those using the form type in 1997–98. It includes those cases with missing data either through non-consent, errors or because no information was available/provided.

. . not applicable (data based on agency actions)

Source: NDCA 2000; Karmel 1999.

This report examines the housing needs of homeless persons and the links between homelessness and housing assistance in Australia in 1997–98.

It provides information on the characteristics of homeless people who received assistance through the SAAP-funded agencies across Australia, their housing circumstances before and after receiving assistance, and their reasons for seeking assistance. The report also looks at links between SAAP services and other related health and community services.