

Housing ends homelessness

Homelessness Week: Mon 1 – Sun 7 August 2022

shelertas.org.au
#HW2022



HOMELESSNESS IN TASMANIA: THE FACTS

Homelessness affects people of all ages, and in all regions of Tasmania. At the 2016 Census there were **1,692 Tasmanians** experiencing homelessness, and the 2021 Census results are expected to show an even greater increase.

In December 2021, there were **388 Tasmanians** without any housing at all, but less than one in ten people experiencing homelessness are sleeping rough. Most homelessness is hidden from view:

- people are staying temporarily with others (couch surfing)
- in precarious and substandard accommodation
- in emergency shelters
- or in overcrowded dwellings, doubled up families, cars and tents.

People can become homeless for many reasons including loss of income or employment; the lack of affordable housing; family breakdown and domestic violence; transition from care or custody; and mental health, gambling or substance issues. **The housing crisis is the major reason for Tasmanians to seek assistance from homelessness services.**

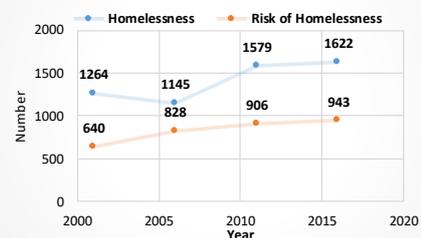
For many people homelessness is temporary, and they can quickly recover and stabilise their situation. For others, finding and maintaining a safe affordable home is extremely difficult, and homelessness lasts much too long.

More than 120,000 Tasmanians live below the poverty line. As housing costs keep rising, it is more difficult for Tasmanians earning low and moderate incomes to find affordable housing.

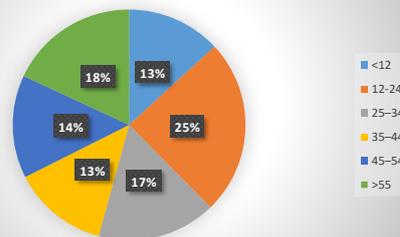
Shelter Tas advocates for a safe, secure, affordable home for every Tasmanian and an end to homelessness.

ABS Census 2016 shows:

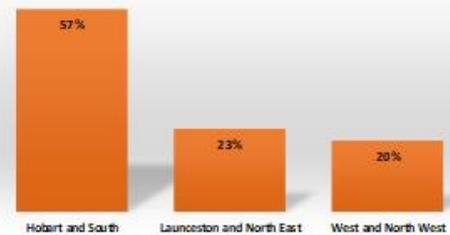
Homelessness Trends, 2001 - 2016



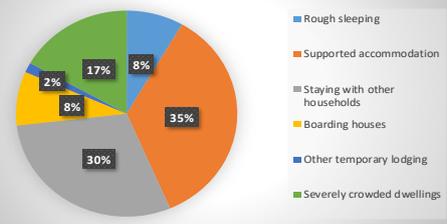
Age groups affected, 2016



Homelessness Across Tasmania, 2016



Where people stay, 2016



HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT IN TASMANIA

Tasmania's network of emergency shelters, specialist homelessness services and support services assist people experiencing homelessness and who are at risk of homelessness in all regions.

Social housing and crisis accommodation play a critical role in housing people experiencing homelessness. Support services help people address issues that can lead to homelessness.

Support includes help to find emergency and long term housing; helping with issues like domestic violence; substance use; gambling; mental illness; counselling and legal advice; life skills; education and employment; and help with stabilising and maintaining existing tenancies.

Housing and homelessness support services can be accessed through Tasmania's **Housing Connect** service.

For assistance call - 1800 800 588

Demand for homelessness services in Tasmania (AIHW 2020-2021)

One in 82 people in Tasmania received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (1 in 87).

Reasons for seeking assistance:

- *housing crisis (48%, compared with 34% nationally)*
- *inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (40% compared with 27%)*
- *housing affordability stress (41%, 29% nationally).*

In the year 2020-2021, 6,600 clients were assisted in Tasmania, 2% of the national SHS client population.

On any one day in Tasmania:

- *46 requests for help go unassisted*
- *Children who experience homelessness have an increased risk of becoming homeless in later life.*
- *More women than men requested assistance from homelessness services – 54% women, 46% men.*

WHAT IS NEEDED TO END HOMELESSNESS IN TASMANIA?

Homelessness will end when everyone has access to appropriate, affordable and secure housing, along with the support needed to help people stay housed. **Housing ends homelessness.**

Shelter Tas calls for national and state level actions, including:

- A National Affordable Housing Strategy to increase the supply of affordable and social housing
- A target of 10% of all residential dwellings to be social and affordable housing in the *Tasmanian Housing Strategy*
- A dedicated housing strategy for women
- Adequate investment in Tasmania's homelessness and crisis accommodation support
- Adequate resources to ensure housing and support for Tasmania's young people at risk
- Raising the rates of government income support for low income households
- Making affordable housing a priority in Tasmania's planning system.

The Shelter Tas vision is for affordable, appropriate, safe and secure housing for all Tasmanians and an end to homelessness