

Housing ends homelessness

Homelessness Week: Mon 7 – Sun 13 August 2023

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#HW2023



HOMELESSNESS IN LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA: THE FACTS

Homelessness affects people of all ages, and in all regions of lutruwita/Tasmania. In 2021 a **total of 2,350 people in Tasmania were homeless**, up 45% from the 2016 census. The largest cohort of all homeless Tasmanians, at 25%, were aged between 12 – 24 years, with an additional 14% being children under 12 years old.

On Census night, there were **231 Tasmanians** sleeping rough, but approximately 90% of people experiencing homelessness are hidden from view:

- people 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.

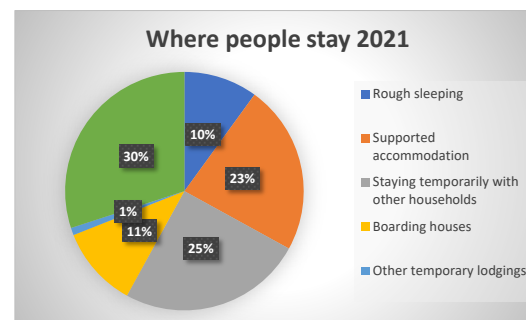
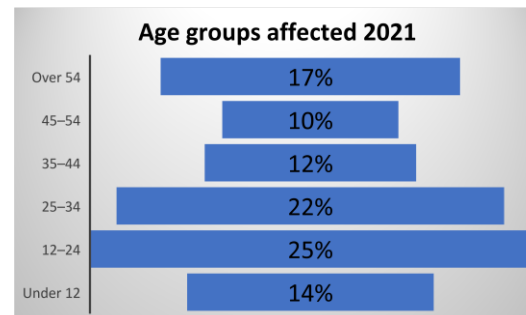
The housing crisis is the major reason for Tasmanians to seek assistance from homelessness services.

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 far 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 for episodes of homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring.

ABS Census 2021* shows:



*Tasmanian data

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 2021-2022)

One in 81 people in Tasmania received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (1 in 94).

In the year 2021-2022, 7,000 clients were assisted in Tasmania, 3% of the national SHS client population.

Reasons for seeking assistance:

- *housing crisis (48%, compared with 37% nationally)*
- *inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (41% compared with 26%)*
- *housing affordability stress (45%, 31% nationally).*

On any one day in Tasmania:

- *42 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 – 57% women, 43% men*
- *15% of SHS clients identified as Aboriginal.*

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*
- Gendered analysis and strategic actions to ensure safe homes for all women and children
- Increased investment in Tasmania's homelessness and crisis accommodation and 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 social and affordable housing a priority in Tasmania's planning system
- Building the size and professional capacity of the housing and homelessness workforce to meet growing demand.

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