

About Homelessness in lutruwita/Tasmania

Homelessness affects people of all ages, and in all regions of lutruwita/Tasmania. With more people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, we need to reduce and eliminate homelessness in 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.

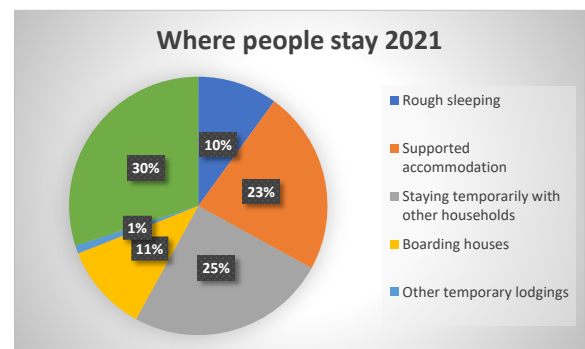
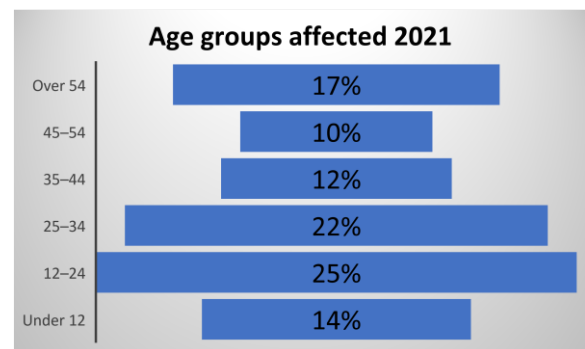
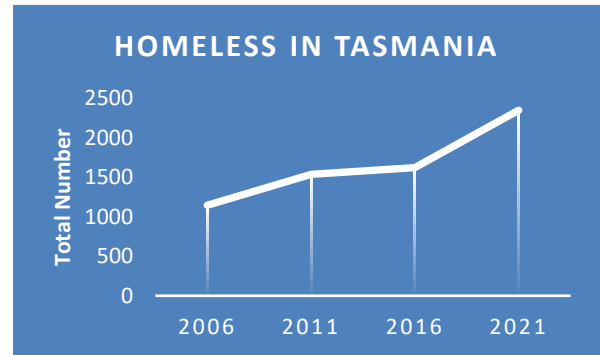
People can become homeless for many reasons including loss of income or employment, the lack of affordable housing, family breakdown and domestic violence, illness, transition from care or custody, mental health, gambling or substance issues.

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

Less than one in ten people experiencing homelessness are sleeping rough. Many more people are staying temporarily with others - couch surfing, in crisis shelters, in cars, doubled up with families in overcrowded dwellings or in precarious and substandard accommodation.

More than 120,000 Tasmanians live below the poverty line. As housing costs rise, it is more difficult for Tasmanians earning low and moderate incomes to find affordable housing. The chronic shortage of affordable rental housing in Tasmania is a major cause of homelessness and a barrier to pathways out of homelessness.

ABS Census 2021* shows:



*Tasmanian data

For more facts on homelessness in Tasmania: www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/fact-sheets

Homelessness support in Tasmania

A network of shelters and specialist services across Tasmania support people who are experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.

Social housing and crisis accommodation play a critical role in housing people experiencing homelessness, and support services help 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 or mental illness; counselling and legal advice; life skills, education and employment; as well as 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.**

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 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 capacity of the housing and homelessness workforce to meet growing demand.

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

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