



Specialist homelessness services 2019–20: Tasmania

Homelessness can profoundly affect a person’s mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) deliver services for specific groups (such as people experiencing family and domestic violence and young people) as well as more generic services for people in housing crisis.

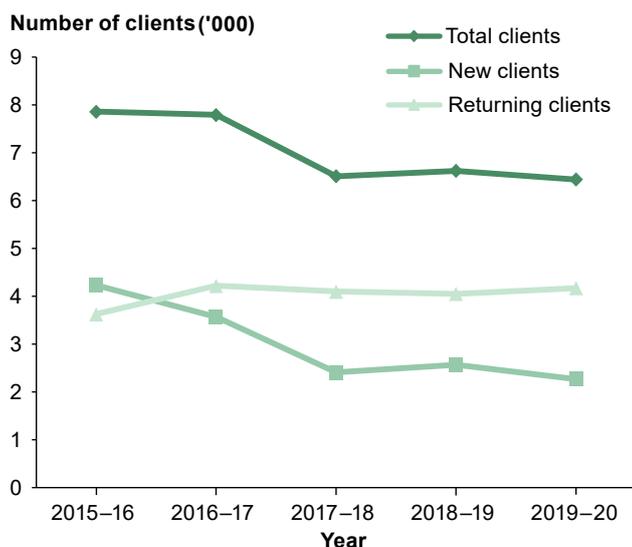
How many people were assisted?

One in 83 people in Tasmania (Tas) received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (1 in 87). The top reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- housing crisis (50%, compared with 34% nationally)
- financial difficulties (45%, compared with 41%)
- housing affordability stress (44% compared with 29%)

On average, 36 requests for assistance went unmet each day.

Trends in Tasmanian client numbers



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data**.

Quick facts

- 6,400 clients were assisted in Tasmania—2% of the national SHS population (290,500 total clients).

Of Tas clients:

- 57% were homeless on first presentation, higher than the national rate (43%).
- 8 in 10 (81%) who were at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- Almost half (46%) who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Client characteristics, 2019–20

	Tas	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	40
	Female	60
Indigenous (%)	16	27
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	61
	Inner regional	23
	Outer regional	11
	Remote and very remote	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	30
	One parent with child/ren	34
	Couple with child/ren	13
	Couple without child/ren	5
	Other family or group	18
	Employed	13
Labour force (%)	Unemployed	51
	Not in labour force	37
	Education/training	21
Education status (%)	Not in education/training	79
	Median length of support (days)	43
Median nights of accommodation	28	
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)	30	

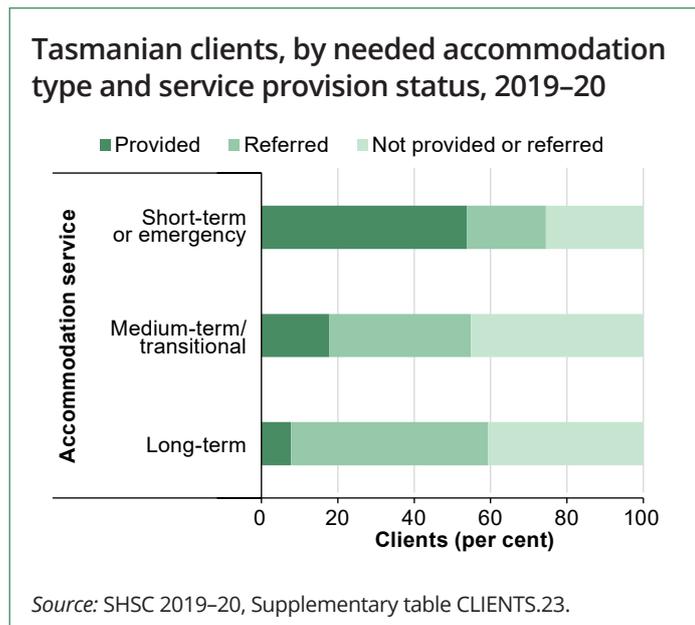
– nil or rounded to zero

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SHSC supplementary tables 2019–20.

Accommodation services

A greater proportion of clients in Tas than nationally needed accommodation (92% and 59%, respectively).



Client groups of interest

While the overall client rate decreased in Tasmania in 2019–20 compared with the previous year, client rates increased for some interest groups including Indigenous clients and those with a mental health issue.

Clients per 10,000, by interest groups

	Tasmania		Australia	
	2018–19	2019–20	2018–19	2019–20
All clients	125.4	120.6	116.2	114.5
Indigenous	320.7	327.7	782.0	798.3
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	27.5	27.4	17.2	16.7
Older people (55 and over)	12.1	11.8	9.7	9.6
Family and domestic violence	33.2	33.2	46.6	47.0
Disability	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.6
Mental health	59.8	61.3	34.6	34.8
Exiting custodial arrangements	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.7
Leaving care	5.4	5.8	2.7	2.7
Children on protection orders	1.6	1.5	3.7	3.5
Drug/alcohol use	16.5	16.8	11.2	11.2

Notes

- Crude rates are used except for Indigenous rates which are directly age-standardised (see online technical information).
- Minor adjustments in rates may occur between publications reflecting revision of the estimated resident population by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Sources: SHSC Supplementary tables 2018–19 to 2019–20.

Housing outcomes

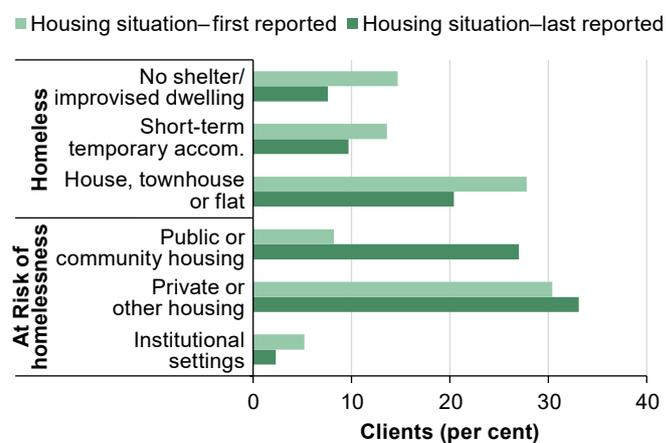
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the more than 2,200 clients in Tasmania who began support homeless, 46% (over 1,000 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, 54% (or 560 clients) were housed in public or community housing, while 44% (or around 450 clients) were housed in private or other housing.

Of the almost 1,800 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness, most were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- 3 in 4 (72% or 240) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 10% (30 clients) were assisted into private or other housing.
- 3 in 5 (64% or 800) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 20% (250) were assisted into public or community housing.

Tasmanian clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2019–20



Source: SHSC 2019–20, Supplementary table CLIENTS.30.

****Note:** Data for 2011–12 to 2016–17 have been adjusted for non-response. Due to improvements in rates of agency participation and SLK validity, 2017–18 data onwards are not weighted. The removal of weighting does not constitute a break in time series and weighted data from 2011–12 to 2016–17 are comparable with unweighted data for 2017–18 onwards. For further information, refer to the Technical notes.

More information

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