

GENDER, HOUSING INSECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA: *DATA INSIGHTS*

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FOREWORD

As the Federal Government outlines its vision for housing and homelessness through the National Housing and Homelessness Plan, this report, a collaboration between YWCA Australia and the UNSW Cities Futures Research Centre, delves into the gendered and intersectional landscape of housing insecurity and homelessness in Australia. Our objective is to provide meaningful insights and inform targeted interventions for a more equal housing future.

This research critically examines the gendered and intersectional experiences of housing insecurity and homelessness and provides a baseline for further research and insights in this important area. It sheds light on the unique challenges faced by women, First Nations women specifically, and young people. It also highlights significant gaps in data that show the experiences of housing insecurity and homelessness for trans and gender diverse people in Australia. The findings compel us to confront worrying trends of housing insecurity for women nationally, do better to accurately capture the experiences of women and gender diverse people when seeking access to housing, and inform the design of more targeted interventions for policy change.

Key Findings

- **Complex Picture of Homelessness:** Homelessness in Australia is a complex issue with gendered and intersectional dimensions, requiring effective and targeted intervention.
- **Rising Women's Homelessness:** Women's homelessness is on the rise, with women single parents experiencing homelessness outnumbering their male counterparts in every state.
- **First Nations Women Disadvantage:** First Nations Women continue to face persistent disadvantage, experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness at significantly higher rates, particularly in the Northern Territory.
- **Youth Bearing the Brunt:** Young people are disproportionately affected by the housing and rental affordability crisis, constituting almost half of the population experiencing homelessness.

Summary of Findings

- **Lack of Data:** The lack of disaggregated gendered and intersectional data hinders our understanding of the varied challenges faced by women and gender diverse people experiencing housing insecurity. The inadequacy in capturing various forms and experiences of homelessness, particularly for trans and gender diverse people, hampers effective policy design and perpetuates existing inequalities.
- **Women and First Nations Homelessness:** Alarming trends show an increase in both estimated numbers and homelessness rates for women, and First Nations women constitute nearly a quarter of all women experiencing homelessness nationally.

- **Homelessness Highest for Young People:** Almost half of people experiencing homelessness and 57 per cent of those in inadequate housing are young people, highlighting the urgency of youth-focused interventions.
- **State of the States:** Substantial rises in rates of people experiencing homelessness in Tasmania contrasts with declines noted in New South Wales, Northern Territory, and Queensland. Despite an overall decline in homelessness figures in the Northern Territory, homelessness rates are 10 per cent higher for women than men.
- **Reasons for Seeking Services Unchanged for Women:** Domestic and Family Violence remains one of the leading factors driving women to seek SHS assistance.

The Change We Need: A Gendered and Intersectional Policy

YWCA recognises that safe, secure, and affordable housing is fundamental to achieving gender equality in Australia. The evidence clearly shows that housing insecurity and homelessness disproportionately impacts women, and a gendered and intersectional approach will better address the wide-ranging structural inequalities women and gender diverse people face in accessing safe, secure, and affordable housing.

A gendered and intersectional approach means a better understanding of gendered pathways into housing insecurity and homelessness in order to design more responsive and tailored pathways out. Applying a gender lens to housing and homelessness policy acknowledges that one-size-fits-all solutions do not adequately address the intersecting and structural challenges faced by women and gender diverse people and will ensure that their specific needs and experiences are heard and appropriately responded to.

It is critical that these data-driven insights translate into evidence-based policy development and meaningful action. A clear path forward for change, including targeted investment, is necessary to properly address the housing needs of women and gender diverse people in Australia. For example, this report advocates for targeted policy interventions, such as tailored support services, domestic violence intervention, improved service system integration, policies for rural and regional areas, and youth-focused initiatives. These efforts should be complemented by strategic investments in affordable housing and specialised services, mental health support, and innovative economic strategies to achieve more equal housing outcomes.

This research aims to elevate the dialogue on these critical issues and foster a greater understanding of the systems that produce homelessness, emphasizing the role of intersectional inequalities. The hope is for a re-think of policy and service design to ensure better housing outcomes for women and gender diverse people as part of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan and beyond.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report explores the gendered dimensions of homelessness and marginal housing through quantitative data. It aims to provide YWCA Australia with quantitative evidence and insights for use in its advocacy for women, gender diverse individuals, and young women-led households experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. The foundation of this analysis is a data audit conducted July 20th to July 27th, 2023, bringing together key publicly accessible data sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) data cubes.

This report highlights a significant concern in contemporary homelessness and marginally-housed population research, in that there remains an absence of disaggregated, specifically gendered and intersectional, data. Existing datasets frequently fail to capture the challenges encountered by women and people of diverse genders leading households. This further includes data on housing security faced by these vulnerable demographic groups. Data dimensions such as these are integral to comprehend homelessness and housing security in its multifaceted nature, as it is shaped by intersecting factors such as gender, race, socioeconomic status, age, and disability. This understanding is vital for the formulation of nuanced policies and support mechanisms that effectively cater to the distinct challenges encountered by various segments within the homeless demographic. However, the lack of precise and accessible data engenders a substantial knowledge gap, potentially obstructing the development of efficacious policies.

In the absence of nuanced data, there is a risk of policy-making processes being uninformed, which may inadvertently maintain the prevailing inequalities. Procuring detailed and accessible data is fundamental, serving as a pivotal element for crafting strategies that effectively mitigate gender-based inequalities in housing security.

Homelessness Trends and Demographics

At the 2021 Census, the estimated number of Australians experiencing homelessness was just under 122,000 individuals. Although there was an increase in the absolute count, the rate of homelessness decreased due to population growth, from 4.95 per 1,000 persons in 2016 to 4.79 per 1,000 persons in 2021. The number of marginally-housed individuals also declined, from 96,000 in 2016 to slightly below 93,000 in 2021.

Males comprised 56% of the 2021 homeless count, recording a decline in estimated number and rate. This comes in contrast to an increase in both estimated numbers and rate for females. Indigenous populations faced a 6% increase in numbers, reaching 24,522. Their rate of homelessness is estimated to be approximately ten times that of the non-Indigenous population, with Indigenous women represent nearly 23% of all homeless females in 2021. Indigenous communities continue to experience significantly higher rates of homelessness and marginal housing compared to non-Indigenous communities.

Analysis across States and Territories

Variations in homelessness between states are noted, with Tasmania witnessing a substantial rise in homelessness rates, while declines were observed in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, and Queensland. Female homelessness rates increased notably in several states, with the Northern Territory recording rates exceeding those of males by over 10%.

Overcrowded accommodations emerged as the predominant form of homelessness and marginal housing, accounting for 59.9% of the total instances in 2021. The ABS data showcased that overcrowded dwelling issues are prevalent across states, with the Northern Territory recording the highest rate.

Age Demographics and Homelessness

Young individuals accounted for the highest proportions of homelessness, with 49.2% of the total homeless population, followed by the Mid-Age group at 36.1%. The Senior age group recorded the lowest rates, albeit with slight increases in some states. The Young group also dominated marginally-housed statistics, constituting over 57.4% of all marginally-housed groups in 2021.

Indigenous Disparities

Indigenous persons encountered pronounced disparities, experiencing significantly higher prevalence of homelessness across all states, especially in the Northern Territory, where the rates were 30 times higher than those of non-Indigenous individuals. Indigenous females constitute the largest proportion of these groups in the state, and an increase in Indigenous homelessness rates occurred in multiple states during the inter-censal period.

Non-citizen groups

Non-citizen groups experienced disproportionately high rates of homelessness and marginal housing, with rates at least twice as high in most states.

Household structures of homelessness

Children under 15, group household members, and unrelated individuals experienced the highest rates of homeless and marginal-housed persons. Female lone parents outnumbered male lone parents in every state within all homelessness categories.

Use of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHSs)

Nationally, the use of SHSs decreased from 2016/17 to 2021/22, except in the Northern Territory. A gendered perspective revealed that reductions in SHS use were primarily due to declines in male usage, while female SHS use is increasing in several regions. Indigenous women formed a high proportion of SHS users across all states, primarily due to housing-related causes and family and domestic violence (FDV). Young Indigenous females constituted 11% of all SHS users.

The overall trends indicate significant inter-jurisdictional changes in SHS caseloads over the past five years, with noticeable growth rates in regions like Queensland, ACT, and Tasmania. The increase in homelessness caseloads involving men has been slightly greater than for women at a national level, although there are major divergences at the state/territory level.

Housing, including access and affordability, and FDV-related issues were the two predominant reasons for seeking SHS assistance. FDV was a leading cause in regions like the Northern Territory and Western Australia, with women being grossly overrepresented in these figures. Financial reasons also emerged as another common factor driving SHS use among both men and women.

People with Disability and SHS

The use of SHS by people with disability experienced a national drop by 34% between 2016-17 and 2021-22, with housing-related issues (50.42%) being the predominant reason for seeking SHS services. FDV-related issues were the second most common cause, especially among women with disability, accounting for 23% of reasons for seeking SHS services.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this comprehensive report paints a picture of the complex landscape of homelessness in Australia. The findings highlight the gendered and intersectional experiences of homelessness, particularly for women and First Nations peoples, underscoring the need for targeted interventions. The prevalence of family and domestic violence as a key driver of homelessness, along with the intersection of disability, illuminates the need for nuanced support systems. The report further recommends an expansion of research efforts, emphasising the importance of exploring intersectional experiences of homelessness. This includes a deeper investigation into the phenomenon of hidden homelessness, which disproportionately affects women, and the specific challenges faced by young women leading households, as well as people of diverse genders; in addition to examining the complex interactions between various demographic factors and how they collectively influence experiences of homelessness.

Key recommendation for policy development, informed by the findings of this report, include:

1. **Support Services Tailored for Women**, including the implementation of services specifically catered to women experiencing homelessness, encompassing healthcare, mental health support, and gender-sensitive social services.
2. **Domestic Violence Intervention**, enhancing support for women who are survivors of domestic violence through safe shelters and comprehensive legal and psychological assistance.
3. **Integrated Services for Women**, promoting the integration of housing, health, and social services to provide a coordinated approach tailored to the multifaceted needs of women experiencing homelessness.
4. **Policies for Rural and Regional Women**, focussing on the unique challenges faced by women in rural and regional areas, including limited access to services and infrastructure.
5. **Youth-Focused Interventions for Young Women**, providing specialised programmes for young women at risk of homelessness, including mental health services and education support.

It is hoped this report can equip the YWCA with data-driven insights that not only inform strategic advocacy initiatives but also foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by women, gender diverse individuals, and young women-led households in their right to access secure and stable housing.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project scope

The City Futures Research Centre (CFRC) was commissioned by YWCA Australia to conduct a comprehensive audit and analysis of existing datasets pertaining to gender, homelessness, and housing insecurity, as outlined in RFQ004/23.

This report aims to provide YWCA with an evidence base for understanding homelessness and the intersection of gender, and other demographic and socio-economic factors. It is addressed to the following research questions put by YWCA:

1. What can the data tell us about the experiences and impacts of housing insecurity (including rental markets) and homelessness for young women, young gender diverse people, and young women-led households?
2. To the extent that it is possible, what might this data suggest for future impacts in relation to housing pathways, safety, security, and wellbeing?

Chapter 2 of this report delineates the findings, incorporating data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimating Homelessness Census of 2016 and 2021, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC).

As well as presenting findings about homelessness and gender as revealed in the data analysis, the report acknowledges that traditional datasets frequently fall short in capturing the nuances of housing insecurity encountered by young women, especially those leading households or identifying as gender diverse. Recognising the scarcity, fragmentation, and inaccessibility of data related to this topic, we acknowledge the YWCA's call for a thorough review of available datasets as key to understanding and addressing gender disparities in experiences related to achieve housing security.

Audit approach

The data audit conducted spanned from July 20th to July 27th, 2023, with the primary aim of identifying, evaluating, and assessing available datasets and metrics related to homelessness, while considering various demographic factors. A secondary objective was to propose potential dataset extensions that could facilitate more comprehensive intersectional reporting on homelessness, as specifically requested by the YWCA.

Prior to initiating the audit, key metric outcomes were proposed and agreed upon in consultation with YWCA representatives on July 18th, 2023. Following this, on July 19th, 2023, CFRC presented a preliminary report framework, which was shaped based on prior discussions and incorporated the primary methodologies and metrics approved by the YWCA.

In identifying the scope of data available for this audit, it is important to note the barriers encountered in accessing intersectional and gendered analysis through open data. The SEXP variable, provided the ABS, records binary sexes; however, it is noted that the terms sex and gender are sometimes used interchangeably. For example, a respondent might provide a gender response to a sex question (ABS, 2021b). Nevertheless, to capture this, the ABS now presents four statistical variables; Sex, Gender, Variation of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation however this dataset is in its infancy and thus has yet to grow into a statistically relevant and significant figure for researchers and policy makers to utilise (ABS, 2021b). Moreover, these four variables and the response options for respondents does not factor in the fluidity of gender and how people may identify under different genders at different times of their life (ABS, 2021b). Furthermore, under the ABS Privacy Policy, much of the data is suppressed to prohibit disaggregation that may breach the confidentiality of participants (ABS, 2021b). This limitation extends to accessing data on housing security (e.g., rental and income data), disaggregated by the sex and the required geography for analysis in this report. As such, this report cannot provide insight into the gendered and intersectional dimensions of this aspect of housing security.

Data available through the AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services data cubes is a large and often complex database to disseminate information from. The data cube used for this report, 'SHS Demographics' has many variables, however the given the size of the dataset (spanning across 10 years) some variables are unable to be viewed in the same dataset making comparisons difficult. A further consideration of the SHS dataset is that the SHS data cubes are an amalgamation of client data recorded from over 1700 specialist homelessness services across Australia (AIHW, 2023). Whilst a large dataset, this is not necessarily a comprehensive review of the overall demographics of homelessness and relies on SHS services completing accurate and up to date records.

Geographic Scope and Analytical framework

The geographical scope of the audit extended from the lowest level, Statistical Area 4, up to the state-level. The findings in this document were reported at the state-level, and detailed SA4 statistics are presented in

the appendices. To maintain jurisdictional and time-series compatibility, geographies aligned with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), such as Statistical Areas, were given priority over non-ASGS structures (e.g., postcodes and electoral divisions). The analysis conducted excluded 'Other Territories'.

The analytical framework deployed by the CFRC for the metadata audit revolves around the comprehensive assessment of each data element based on its source, spatial resolution, temporal resolution, and accessibility. Supplementary considerations were also incorporated, considering the pertinence of the datasets to the core research questions posed by the YWCA. For ease of reference, Table 1 presents the framework employed for the systematic evaluation of each dataset. This table encapsulates essential information regarding each dataset's dimensions and their consequential implications for future research and analysis in terms of usability and replicability.

Table 1. Dataset evaluation criteria

Framework	Definition and notes
Dataset	Specific dataset related to each metric produced in report
Source	Source of each dataset
Spatial resolution	Recommended level of available detail or granularity of each dataset
Temporal resolution	Frequency of update or temporal frequency of available dataset

1.2 Gender and homelessness: complex intersections

Homelessness manifests in varied ways. The ABS definition captures a spectrum of experiences, ranging from rough sleeping and emergency shelters to more concealed forms like couch surfing, overcrowded living, and residing in insecure or unaffordable housing:

“When a person lacks suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate, lacks tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, or doesn’t allow them control of, and access to space for social relations” (ABS, 2012).

Many of these ‘hidden homelessness’ forms are elusive to research due to challenges in obtaining accurate and relevant data (Deleu et al., 2021; Quick, 2023).

Homelessness experiences differ across gender and other demographic and socioeconomic categories, including race, class, age, and disability. Scholars of ‘intersectionality’ – a term introduced by Kimberlé Crenshaw and rooted in Black feminist scholarship and activism (Crenshaw 1989; 1991; Cho, Crenshaw et al. 2013) – emphasise how these categories intersect, resulting in experiences that are distinct and not merely additive. For example, for women of colour, ‘the intersectional experience is greater than the sum of racism and sexism’ (Crenshaw 1989: 140). Ignoring intersectionality means overlooking intra-group differences, marginalising those who belong to multiple groups (Martin et al., 2019: 7).

Despite the diversity in homelessness experiences, women’s situations often remain less visible (Baptista, 2010). Historically, the focus has primarily been on men’s experiences (Phipps et al., 2019), especially rough sleeping. However, the past decade has seen increased advocacy for homeless women, alongside a surge in research exploring gender dimensions in homelessness.

Family and domestic violence (FDV) is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children, both globally and in Australia (Mitchel, 2011; Kirkman et al., 2015; valentine & Breckenridge, 2016; Bretherton, 2017; Blunden & Flanagan, 2022). The adverse effects of homelessness on the mental health of women and children are well-documented, and evidence indicates that such exposure further entrenches homelessness cycles (Kirkman et al., 2015). Affordability issues and the rising cost of living exacerbates these cycles. Additionally, finding affordable long-term rentals becomes more challenging when navigating homelessness services with dependents, especially if properties are distant from urban employment centres (Mavoramas, 2011; Swami, 2018). Unaffordable housing is another obstacle to escaping homelessness, particularly for women fleeing situations where financial support is fragmented (Burnett, 2016; Cripps & Habibis, 2019; Warren & McAuliffe, 2021).

While homelessness is often seen as an urban issue, it is increasingly prevalent in regional and remote areas. These areas often lack adequate services, and service providers face high staff turnover and diverse cross-cultural challenges (Zuffery & Chung, 2015). Regional homelessness is not as visible since those affected are not typically found sleeping in public spaces, a common urban manifestation. Instead, they reside in overcrowded or unsuitable homes (Zuffery & Chung, 2015). Women in remote areas often face invisible homelessness and increased domestic violence, influenced by the social, economic, and geographical challenges of regional life (Campo and Tayton, 2015). The close-knit nature of smaller communities can result in less privacy for women, exposing them to gossip and social isolation (Campo & Tayton, 2015). This environment often discourages women from disclosing issues like domestic violence or housing insecurity, adding to the hidden facets of rural homelessness (Zuffery & Parkes, 2019).

Indigenous populations account for a significant portion of homelessness statistics in rural and regional centres across Australia (Memmott et al., 2010; Anderson & Collins, 2014). Specifically, Indigenous populations constitute a large segment of Australia's homeless despite representing less than 4% of the overall population (ABS, 2022). Their overrepresentation can be attributed to the broader Australian housing crisis and historical issues like "colonisation, dispossession and attachment to land, poverty, and identity" (Parsell, 2010:16). In remote areas, addressing homelessness and housing insecurity among First Nations women is complicated due to cultural differences, such as the mobile nature of some Aboriginal families (Dufty-Jones, 2015). In both urban and regional settings, women are less likely to be visibly homeless, often staying with relatives or in overcrowded residences (Zuffrey & Parkes, 2019). Such narrow and culturally uninformed definitions not only marginalise minority communities but also impede understanding true homelessness rates. This situation underscores the need to address the multitude of factors increasing women's vulnerability to homelessness.

Persons with a disability are overrepresented in homelessness figures, as they are more susceptible to unemployment and have further difficulty finding suitable affordable housing (Beer et al., 2020). Disability serves as a further barrier in that housing and support services often do not meet complex mental and physical needs (Collins et al., 2018; Beer et al., 2019). Similarly, young people are a growing figure in homelessness statistics (Kuskoff, 2018; Mackenzie, et al., 2020) and face similar challenges when considering suitable housing to meet complex needs. Moreover, migrant status is an additional cause, as finding safe and affordable housing is the most significant problem facing migrant women and children when settling into a new country (Samari & Groot, 2021), and further barriers such as language and

employability also exponentially impact homelessness drivers (Kaur, et al., 2021). Ultimately, this reveals intersectionality plays a large role in the experiences of women and homelessness throughout Australia. When coupling factors such as race, geographical location, age and disability, women are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of homelessness. With many women turning to family and friends in times of housing insecurity, women are often overlooked in national figures (Zuffrey & Parks, 2019) and as such are underestimated meaning policy responses are not meeting the needs of complex and varied groups.

The true extent of homelessness among women is concealed by underreporting driven by fear, dependency concerns, and societal stigma (Takahashi et al., 2002; Li & Urada, 2020; Reilly, et al., 2022). Under estimations of homelessness and domestic violence amongst diverse communities continues to be an issue when developing targeted policy outcomes. The overall inadequacy of diverse and intersectional gender-disaggregated data further hampers accurate measurement in Australia, illustrating the imperative for comprehensive and intersectional gender-inclusive data collection methodologies.

2. UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

This section examines the data on homelessness provided by two national agencies, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

It is important to note the differences between the datasets from these two sources. The ABS offers an estimation of the number of individuals who are either homeless or marginally housed, as categorised by its Homelessness Operational Group (OPGP) types. The ABS employs a multi-criteria definition of homelessness, which encompasses elements such as suitable accommodation, tenure types, dwelling adequacy, and the availability of space for social interactions. An individual is classified as homeless if

they fail to meet one or more of these criteria. Within the OPGP, specific categories of **homelessness** include individuals living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping outdoors; those in supported accommodation for the homeless; individuals temporarily residing with other households; people living in boarding houses; those in other temporary lodgings; and individuals residing in 'severely' crowded dwellings. For those categorised as **marginally-housed**, the groupings include individuals living in other crowded dwellings, those in other improvised dwellings, and individuals who are marginally housed in caravan parks.

Table 2 ABS Homelessness Operational Groups and their aggregation into homelessness group types

ABS Operational Group	Homelessness/Marginally-housed Designation	Homelessness/Marginally-housed Categories
People Living in Improvised Dwellings, Tents or Sleeping Out	Homeless	Improvised Dwellings or Rough Sleeping
People In Other Improvised Dwellings	Marginally-housed	Improvised Dwellings or Rough Sleeping
People Living in 'Severely' Crowded Dwellings	Homeless	Overcrowded Dwellings
People Living in Other Crowded Dwellings	Marginally-housed	Overcrowded Dwellings
People Living in Boarding Houses	Homeless	Private Market Temporary Accommodation
People In Other Temporary Lodgings	Homeless	Private Market Temporary Accommodation
People Marginally Housed in Caravan Parks	Marginally-housed	Private Market Temporary Accommodation
People Living in Supported Accommodation for The Homeless	Homeless	Supported Accommodation for The Homeless
People Staying Temporarily with Other Households	Homeless	Temporarily with Other Households
Not Applicable	Neither homeless nor marginally-housed	Persons not estimated to be homeless or marginally housed on Census night

For analytical purposes, the ABS Operational Groups are also consolidated based on similarities in their dwelling and living conditions (ref. **Table 2**). Comparisons are then made using the aggregate data from these operational groups, including those labelled as 'Not Applicable'.

Lastly, the AIHW utilises a different approach, offering a proxy measure for homelessness based on the number of users for its homelessness services. It should be noted that this data does not provide insights into the prevalence of homelessness in each state as individuals who do not access these services are not enumerated.

2.1. Data review

ABS Estimating Homelessness Census

National trends in homeless and marginally-housed persons

On the night of the 2021 Census, the estimated number of homeless individuals in Australia was slightly below 122,000 (ref. **Table 3**). This figure is only a minor increase from the count made during the Census conducted five years prior. Despite the increase in the estimated number of homeless persons, general population growth resulted in a decreased rate of homelessness, from 4.95 per 1,000 persons in 2016 to 4.79 per 1,000 persons in 2021. Similarly, the number of marginally-housed individuals in 2021 was recorded to be slightly below 93,000, showing a decline from 96,000 in 2016. Subsequently, the proportion of marginally-housed individuals also observed a decrease, decreasing to 3.95 per 1,000 individuals in 2021 from 4.55 per 1,000 individuals in 2016 (ref. **Table 4**).

Table 3 Homelessness count and rates by gender and Indigenous status in 2016 and 2021.

Gender/Indigenous Status	Homelessness count		Rate of homeless persons per 1000 persons	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Female	48,746	53,609	4.11	4.16
Indigenous	11,615	12,417	35.52	30.36
Non-Indigenous	32,685	35,134	3.02	2.96
Not stated	4,446	6,058	6.39	10.23
Male	67,113	68,285	5.81	5.44
Indigenous	11,501	12,105	35.70	29.99
Non-Indigenous	47,954	46,269	4.56	4.02
Not stated	7,658	9,911	10.69	15.44
Total	115,859	121,894	4.95	4.79
Indigenous	23,116	24,522	35.61	30.17
Non-Indigenous	80,639	81,403	3.78	3.48
Not stated	12,104	15,969	8.58	12.94

Note: Rates are graded in pink across both years and Indigenous status.

1. This report uses the term Indigenous to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as recorded by the ABS. Non-Indigenous refers to peoples who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Table 3 and **Table 4** provide a detailed analysis of the shift during this intercensal interval, segmenting the data by gender and Indigenous status. In the 2021 Census, males comprised 56% of the approximated homelessness count, showing a decline in both absolute total (68,285) and rate (5.44 per thousand). In contrast, homeless females experienced an increase in both estimated numbers and rate per 1,000. Indigenous individuals experienced a 6% increase in numbers, reaching an estimated 24,522, and a decrease in rate to 30.17 per 1,000. This rate is approximately ten times that of the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous homeless population are the majority (50.6%), experiencing a 9.9% increase in numbers and a rate reduction to roughly 30.36 per 1,000. Indigenous females represented nearly 23% of homeless females in 2021. For the marginally housed population, both genders experienced a decrease from 2016 to 2021, with females constituting 46% of the total (43,375). Indigenous females represented approximately 16% of marginally housed females.

Despite reductions in both homeless and marginally housed counts, Indigenous communities continue to experience significantly higher rates of homelessness and marginal housing compared to non-Indigenous persons—approximately ten times and five times higher respectively.

Table 4 Marginally-housed persons count and rates by gender and Indigenous status in 2016 and 2021

Gender/Indigenous Status	Marginally-housed persons count		Rate of Marginally-housed persons per 1000 persons	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Female	44,237	43,375	3.73	3.37
Indigenous	5,944	6,828	18.18	16.70
Non-Indigenous	37,749	36,067	3.48	3.04
Not stated	544	480	0.78	0.81
Male	52,527	49,503	4.55	3.95
Indigenous	5,510	6,485	17.10	16.06
Non-Indigenous	46,255	42,347	4.40	3.68
Not stated	762	671	1.06	1.05
Total	96,764	92,878	4.13	3.65
Indigenous	11,454	13,313	17.64	16.38
Non-Indigenous	84,004	78,414	3.94	3.35
Not stated	1,306	1,151	0.93	0.93

Note: Rates are graded in pink across both years and Indigenous status.

Importantly, however, interpretation of 2021 Census results needs to consider the specific timing of the associated fieldwork. At time these data were collected, August 2021, Australia was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Closed international borders, city or state-specific lockdowns and extraordinary housing market conditions were in force. As an indicator of underlying homelessness changes over time, therefore, this latest Census may well be imperfect. For example, given that the fieldwork followed on from (or coincided with) large-scale efforts to provide emergency temporary accommodation for rough sleepers and others (Pawson et al. 2021), it is likely that the 2021 homelessness figures will have understated the scale of the problem as manifested immediately prior to the pandemic and following on from the height of the crisis.

Table 5 National changes in homelessness group types by gender

	2016				2021			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
	Count		Rate per 1000 persons		Count		Rate per 1000 persons	
Improvised Dwellings or Rough Sleeping	5,009	8,477	0.42	0.73	3,605	6,558	0.30	0.57
Homeless	2,713	5,408	0.23	0.47	2,494	4,987	0.21	0.43
Marginally Housed	2,296	3,069	0.19	0.27	1,111	1,571	0.09	0.14
Overcrowded Dwellings	61,622	70,187	5.20	6.08	61,663	67,085	5.20	5.81
Homeless	23,465	27,528	1.98	2.38	22,839	24,962	1.93	2.16
Marginally Housed	38,157	42,659	3.22	3.69	38,824	42,123	3.27	3.65
Private Market Temporary Accommodation	8,720	19,904	0.74	1.72	11,193	23,996	0.94	2.08
Homeless	4,936	13,105	0.42	1.13	7,753	18,187	0.65	1.58
Marginally Housed	3,784	6,799	0.32	0.59	3,440	5,809	0.29	0.50
Supported Accommodation	10,347	10,729	0.87	0.93	12,925	11,213	1.09	0.97
Homeless	10,347	10,729	0.87	0.93	12,925	11,213	1.09	0.97
Marginally Housed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Temporarily with Other Households	7,285	10,343	0.61	0.90	7,598	8,936	0.64	0.77
Homeless	7,285	10,343	0.61	0.90	7,598	8,936	0.64	0.77
Marginally Housed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Figures are graded in pink across homelessness and marginally-housed group types by year.

Analysis of the ABS homelessness data segmented by group type reveals that residing in overcrowded accommodations is the predominant form of homelessness (ref. Table 5). Despite experiencing a decline from 2016, this category constituted 59.9% of the total instances of homelessness and marginally housed individuals in 2021. More visible forms of homelessness and marginally housed individuals accounted for a smaller fraction, at 4.7% of the total count – however, in these groups, the number of males was 1.8 times greater than females. Proportionately, female homeless persons are much more likely to be in supported accommodation than are homeless males.

State-level trends in homelessness

Homelessness and marginally-housed persons, by dwelling group type

Analysis of homelessness and marginally-housed group types by state (ref. **Table 6** and **Table 7**) reveals that overcrowded dwelling issues are proportionally the most prevalent across states, except for the Australian Capital Territory. Here, the rates of individuals in Supported Accommodation were similar those in Overcrowded Dwellings at a per 1,000-person rate. The Northern Territory showed the highest rate of overcrowded dwellings at 57.18 per 1000 persons, compared to a national rate of 5.81. Meanwhile, Tasmania witnessed the most marked rise in homelessness rates over the period across genders and most group types.

Table 6 State-level counts in homelessness group types

	Australian Capital Territory		New South Wales		Northern Territory		Queensland		South Australia		Tasmania		Victoria		Western Australia	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Improved Dwellings or Rough Sleeping	39	60	4,326	1,566	1,364	770	3,462	3,070	654	407	266	305	1,564	1,277	1,811	2,708
Homeless	39	60	2,564	931	1,095	628	1,722	2,024	387	287	142	229	1,119	1,022	1,053	2,300
Marginally Housed	-	-	1,762	635	269	142	1,740	1,046	267	120	124	76	445	255	758	408
Overcrowded Dwellings	1,064	1,476	49,296	44,572	16,167	14,939	20,080	22,168	5,904	6,854	940	2,131	28,719	28,356	9,599	8,245
Homeless	372	443	16,804	14,615	11,055	9,901	7,587	7,830	2,128	2,337	261	699	8,921	9,053	3,854	2,923
Marginally Housed	692	1,033	32,492	29,957	5,112	5,038	12,493	14,338	3,776	4,517	679	1,432	19,798	19,303	5,745	5,322
Private Market Temporary Accommodation	129	160	10,097	12,578	723	292	7,712	6,722	1,291	1,382	280	506	6,367	11,838	2,025	1,711
Homeless	99	135	7,102	10,247	471	103	3,787	3,425	914	906	155	269	4,504	10,133	1,009	722
Marginally Housed	30	25	2,995	2,331	252	189	3,925	3,297	377	476	125	237	1,863	1,705	1,016	989
Supported Accommodation	795	880	5,809	4,996	634	1,788	3,722	4,090	1,400	2,489	551	531	7,141	7,787	1,024	1,577
Homeless	795	880	5,809	4,996	634	1,788	3,722	4,090	1,400	2,489	551	531	7,141	7,787	1,024	1,577
Marginally Housed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporarily with Other Households	255	276	5,378	4,100	413	666	4,803	4,965	1,285	1,323	475	564	3,075	2,514	1,944	2,126
Homeless	255	276	5,378	4,100	413	666	4,803	4,965	1,285	1,323	475	564	3,075	2,514	1,944	2,126
Marginally Housed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across all homelessness group types.

Table 7 State-level rates per thousand persons for homelessness group types

	Australian Capital Territory		New South Wales		Northern Territory		Queensland		South Australia		Tasmania		Victoria		Western Australia	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Improved Dwellings or Rough Sleeping	0.10	0.13	0.58	0.19	5.45	2.95	0.73	0.59	0.39	0.23	0.53	0.55	0.27	0.2	0.73	1.01
Homeless	0.10	0.13	0.34	0.12	4.38	2.4	0.36	0.39	0.23	0.16	0.28	0.41	0.19	0.16	0.42	0.86
Marginally Housed	-	-	0.24	0.08	1.08	0.54	0.37	0.20	0.16	0.07	0.25	0.14	0.08	0.04	0.30	0.15
Overcrowded Dwellings	2.69	3.26	6.60	5.54	64.64	57.18	4.22	4.27	3.56	3.87	1.88	3.85	4.89	4.39	3.86	3.09
Homeless	0.94	0.98	2.25	1.81	44.20	37.9	1.59	1.51	1.28	1.32	0.52	1.26	1.52	1.40	1.55	1.10
Marginally Housed	1.75	2.28	4.35	3.72	20.44	19.28	2.62	2.76	2.27	2.55	1.35	2.59	3.37	2.99	2.31	1.99
Private Market Temporary Accommodation	0.33	0.35	1.35	1.56	2.89	1.12	1.62	1.29	0.78	0.78	0.56	0.92	1.08	1.83	0.81	0.64
Homeless	0.25	0.30	0.95	1.27	1.88	0.39	0.8	0.66	0.55	0.51	0.31	0.49	0.77	1.57	0.41	0.27
Marginally Housed	0.08	0.06	0.40	0.29	1.01	0.72	0.82	0.63	0.23	0.27	0.25	0.43	0.32	0.26	0.41	0.37
Supported Accommodation	2.01	1.95	0.78	0.62	2.53	6.84	0.78	0.79	0.84	1.40	1.10	0.96	1.22	1.21	0.41	0.59
Homeless	2.01	1.95	0.78	0.62	2.53	6.84	0.78	0.79	0.84	1.40	1.10	0.96	1.22	1.21	0.41	0.59
Marginally Housed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporarily with Other Households	0.64	0.61	0.72	0.51	1.65	2.55	1.01	0.96	0.77	0.75	0.95	1.02	0.52	0.39	0.78	0.80
Homeless	0.64	0.61	0.72	0.51	1.65	2.55	1.01	0.96	0.77	0.75	0.95	1.02	0.52	0.39	0.78	0.80
Marginally Housed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across all homelessness group types.

Homelessness and marginally-housed persons, by state and gender

Table 8 Homelessness and marginally-housed counts and rates per thousand persons, by state and gender

State/Gender	Count				Rate per 1000 persons			
	Homelessness		Marginally Housed		Homelessness		Marginally Housed	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
ACT	1,560	1,794	722	1,058	3.94	3.97	1.82	2.34
Female	610	748	333	436	3.04	3.26	1.66	1.90
Male	950	1,046	389	622	4.86	4.69	1.99	2.79
NSW	37,657	34,889	37,249	32,923	5.04	4.33	4.99	4.09
Female	14,989	14,557	17,147	15,205	3.96	3.57	4.53	3.73
Male	22,668	20,332	20,102	17,718	6.16	5.12	5.46	4.46
NT	13,668	13,086	5,633	5,369	54.65	50.09	22.52	20.55
Female	6,892	6,782	2,788	2,735	57.81	52.68	23.39	21.24
Male	6,776	6,304	2,845	2,634	51.77	47.56	21.74	19.87
QLD	21,621	22,334	18,158	18,681	4.54	4.30	3.81	3.60
Female	8,990	9,868	8,264	8,878	3.72	3.74	3.42	3.37
Male	12,631	12,466	9,894	9,803	5.38	4.87	4.22	3.83
SA	6,114	7,342	4,420	5,113	3.68	4.14	2.66	2.88
Female	2,450	3,427	1,987	2,363	2.91	3.81	2.36	2.63
Male	3,664	3,915	2,433	2,750	4.48	4.48	2.98	3.15
TAS	1,584	2,292	928	1,745	3.16	4.15	1.85	3.16
Female	671	994	412	806	2.62	3.53	1.61	2.86
Male	913	1,298	516	939	3.72	4.79	2.10	3.46
VIC	24,760	30,509	22,106	21,263	4.22	4.72	3.76	3.29
Female	10,435	12,913	9,792	9,691	3.49	3.94	3.27	2.95
Male	14,325	17,596	12,314	11,572	4.97	5.53	4.28	3.64
WA	8,884	9,648	7,519	6,719	3.57	3.61	3.02	2.52
Female	3,706	4,320	3,498	3,257	2.99	3.22	2.82	2.43
Male	5,178	5,328	4,021	3,462	4.15	4.01	3.22	2.60

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across both census years and gender.

Table 8 breaks down the figures of homelessness and marginally-housed persons by state and gender. Declines in homelessness rates were observed in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, and Queensland. Most states showed slight increases, with a notable exception being Tasmania, where the rate effectively doubled. In South Australia, homelessness rates increased by 15%. Between gender groups, homelessness was more prevalent among males across all states, however the rates of male homelessness decreased in most states. Conversely, female homelessness increased in Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia by a minimum of 16%. The Northern Territory was notably recorded female homelessness rates exceeding those of males by 10%. Regarding marginally-housed groups, the majority of states recorded a decrease in both number and rates, with exceptions in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania experiencing increases of 30% and 70%, respectively. In the Australian Capital Territory, rates of female homelessness rose by 15%, while Tasmania witnessed a 77% increase.

Homelessness and marginally-housed persons, by state, gender, and age group

This study organises age cohorts from the ABS Census are categorised as follows: Senior (60 years and above), Mid-Age (30 to 59 years), and Young (29 years and below).

Across Australia, the Young age group has the highest rates of homelessness, and account for just under half (49.2%, over 121,000 persons) of all homeless persons in 2021 (ref. **Table 9**). Homelessness rates for young persons grew over the inter-censal period in the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, and Tasmania, with the latter recording in 2021 a rate 1.55 times that recorded in 2016. Homelessness rates are lowest for persons in the Senior category, although increases in rates were recorded in five jurisdictions over the period. In Tasmania the rate of homelessness per thousand individuals within the Senior category increased by 1.5 times; in the other jurisdictions, the increases were marginal.

Table 9 Homelessness count and rate per thousand population disaggregated by state, gender, and age category

Age Group	Homelessness count						Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons					
	2016			2021			2016			2021		
	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young
ACT	137	751	672	153	743	898	2.04	4.53	4.13	1.86	3.97	4.91
Female	45	258	307	61	262	425	1.24	3.07	3.83	1.37	2.76	4.73
Male	92	493	365	92	481	473	2.97	6.02	4.42	2.44	5.2	5.09
NSW	4,411	15,091	18,155	4,131	14,273	16,485	2.71	5.05	6.36	2.19	4.47	5.54
Female	1,523	5,438	8,028	1,374	5,568	7,615	1.76	3.57	5.73	1.38	3.42	5.24
Male	2,888	9,653	10,127	2,757	8,705	8,870	3.79	6.58	6.98	3.11	5.56	5.82
NT	902	4,776	7,990	1,067	4,825	7,194	24.17	43.81	76.99	23.58	43.27	68.83
Female	456	2,543	3,893	585	2,589	3,608	25.74	49.22	78.12	26.68	46.46	70.63
Male	446	2,233	4,097	482	2,236	3,586	22.76	38.94	75.95	20.67	40.08	67.11
QLD	3,090	8,845	9,686	3,180	8,744	10,410	3.01	4.7	5.24	2.63	4.29	5.33
Female	1,093	3,401	4,496	1,182	3,677	5,009	2.03	3.52	4.93	1.87	3.51	5.22
Male	1,997	5,444	5,190	1,998	5,067	5,401	4.07	5.93	5.53	3.47	5.12	5.44
SA	613	2,523	2,978	626	2,722	3,994	1.53	3.86	4.91	1.35	3.99	6.37
Female	176	904	1,370	223	1,211	1,993	0.82	2.73	4.61	0.90	3.5	6.51
Male	437	1,619	1,608	403	1,511	2,001	2.36	5.02	5.2	1.86	4.49	6.23
TAS	192	633	759	288	823	1,181	1.51	3.25	4.23	1.91	3.93	6.14
Female	65	242	364	115	347	532	0.97	2.40	4.13	1.44	3.22	5.66
Male	127	391	395	173	476	649	2.12	4.16	4.32	2.42	4.69	6.60
VIC	2,243	9,515	13,002	2,643	11,874	15,992	1.86	4.00	5.68	1.85	4.53	6.62
Female	886	3,807	5,742	919	4,927	7,067	1.37	3.12	5.09	1.2	3.68	5.99
Male	1,357	5,708	7,260	1,724	6,947	8,925	2.44	4.92	6.25	2.6	5.43	7.22
WA	987	3,731	4,166	1,301	4,419	3,928	2.04	3.62	4.29	2.23	4.05	3.95
Female	329	1,387	1,990	558	1,855	1,907	1.30	2.72	4.2	1.83	3.38	3.92
Male	658	2,344	2,176	743	2,564	2,021	2.85	4.52	4.37	2.67	4.72	3.98

Note: Rates are graded in pink within each state across all age groups per year.

For those marginally-housed, the Young age group also recorded the highest rates of homelessness, accounting for over 57.4% of all marginally-housed groups in 2021 (ref. **Table 10**). Increases in young marginally-housed individuals were observed in South Australia and Tasmania between the two census years, with the rate in Tasmania nearly doubling. For the Mid Age and Senior age groups, changes between the censuses were minimal, with a majority of states showing a decline in both the rates and numbers for these subgroups.

Table 10 Marginally-housed persons count and rate per thousand population disaggregated by state, gender, and age category

Age Group	Homelessness count						Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons					
	2016			2021			2016			2021		
	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young	Senior	Mid Age	Young
ACT	28	275	419	52	368	638	0.42	1.66	2.58	0.63	1.96	3.49
Female	10	130	193	20	154	262	0.28	1.55	2.41	0.45	1.62	2.92
Male	18	145	226	32	214	376	0.58	1.77	2.74	0.85	2.31	4.04
NSW	3,365	11,794	22,090	3,353	10,900	18,670	2.07	3.95	7.74	1.78	3.42	6.27
Female	1,508	5,586	10,053	1,537	5,224	8,444	1.74	3.67	7.18	1.54	3.21	5.81
Male	1,857	6,208	12,037	1,816	5,676	10,226	2.44	4.23	8.29	2.05	3.63	6.71
NT	473	1,854	3,306	446	1,751	3,172	12.68	17.01	31.86	9.86	15.7	30.35
Female	238	956	1,594	233	959	1,543	13.43	18.5	31.99	10.63	17.21	30.20
Male	235	898	1,712	213	792	1,629	11.99	15.66	31.74	9.13	14.20	30.49
QLD	2,787	5,953	9,418	2,864	5,707	10,110	2.71	3.16	5.09	2.37	2.80	5.18
Female	1,042	2,721	4,501	1,172	2,830	4,876	1.94	2.82	4.94	1.86	2.70	5.08
Male	1,745	3,232	4,917	1,692	2,877	5,234	3.56	3.52	5.24	2.94	2.91	5.27
SA	361	1,450	2,609	468	1,580	3,065	0.90	2.22	4.30	1.01	2.32	4.89
Female	135	634	1,218	186	758	1,419	0.63	1.91	4.10	0.75	2.19	4.64
Male	226	816	1,391	282	822	1,646	1.22	2.53	4.50	1.30	2.45	5.12
TAS	121	288	519	168	567	1,010	0.95	1.48	2.89	1.11	2.71	5.25
Female	50	131	231	69	272	465	0.75	1.30	2.62	0.87	2.52	4.95
Male	71	157	288	99	295	545	1.19	1.67	3.15	1.39	2.91	5.55
VIC	1,688	6,748	13,670	1,938	6,362	12,963	1.4	2.84	5.97	1.36	2.43	5.37
Female	711	3,042	6,039	847	3,064	5,780	1.10	2.49	5.36	1.11	2.29	4.90
Male	977	3,706	7,631	1,091	3,298	7,183	1.75	3.19	6.57	1.64	2.58	5.81
WA	878	2,348	4,293	870	2,152	3,697	1.81	2.28	4.42	1.49	1.97	3.72
Female	380	1,094	2,024	404	1,072	1,781	1.50	2.14	4.27	1.32	1.95	3.66
Male	498	1,254	2,269	466	1,080	1,916	2.16	2.42	4.56	1.67	1.99	3.77

Note: Rates are graded in pink within each state across all age groups per year.

Homelessness, by state, gender, and Indigenous status

Disaggregation by homelessness and marginally-housed groups show disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous (ref. **Table 11** and **Table 12**). Across all states, the prevalence of homelessness is significantly higher among Indigenous persons compared with non-Indigenous subgroups, with the most pronounced discrepancy observed in the Northern Territory. In this region, the rate of homelessness among Indigenous individuals was 30 times that of non-Indigenous individuals, and the rate of those marginally housed was 15 times higher. Indigenous women constituted 45% of all homeless and 43% of all marginally-housed persons. During the inter-censal period, there was an increase in Indigenous homelessness rates in the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia. These states also experienced a rise in the rates of marginally-housed Indigenous groups.

Table 11 Rates of homelessness per thousand persons within each Indigenous group

	Homelessness count						Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons					
	2016			2021			2016			2021		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated
ACT	82	1,197	281	117	1,321	356	12.59	3.25	13.75	13.15	3.09	23.09
Female	39	484	87	54	592	102	12.04	2.58	8.84	12.30	2.72	13.64
Male	43	713	194	63	729	254	13.15	3.93	18.31	13.98	3.46	31.99
NSW	2,248	31,306	4,103	2,426	27,788	4,675	10.41	4.59	9.40	8.74	3.76	12.13
Female	997	12,551	1,441	1,143	11,553	1,861	9.17	3.62	6.66	8.18	3.08	9.79
Male	1,251	18,755	2,662	1,283	16,235	2,814	11.67	5.59	12.09	9.30	4.46	14.40
NT	12,091	1,277	300	11,382	1,050	654	207.44	7.79	10.72	185.63	6.03	25.27
Female	6,263	522	107	5,981	463	338	215.28	6.71	8.65	193.45	5.38	28.54
Male	5,828	755	193	5,401	587	316	199.62	8.77	12.37	177.68	6.66	22.50
QLD	4,372	14,851	2,398	4,682	15,389	2,263	23.42	3.49	7.62	19.7	3.30	7.79
Female	2,086	6,086	818	2,270	6,787	811	22.08	2.81	5.30	18.86	2.85	5.91
Male	2,286	8,765	1,580	2,412	8,602	1,452	24.79	4.19	9.87	20.57	3.76	9.48
SA	904	4,587	623	1,331	5,007	1,004	26.46	2.97	7.66	31.29	3.01	14.72
Female	481	1,759	210	696	2,310	421	27.81	2.24	5.18	32.52	2.73	12.82
Male	423	2,828	413	635	2,697	583	25.07	3.72	10.12	30.04	3.30	16.48
TAS	113	1,359	112	223	1,811	258	4.84	3.03	3.84	7.41	3.64	10.41
Female	65	567	39	104	789	101	5.47	2.47	2.66	6.76	3.11	8.35
Male	48	792	73	119	1,022	157	4.18	3.61	5.02	8.10	4.19	12.39
VIC	755	20,284	3,721	1,053	23,590	5,866	15.78	3.70	11.02	16.08	3.86	20.82
Female	385	8,493	1,557	520	10,294	2,099	15.89	3.04	9.10	15.90	3.31	15.13
Male	370	11,791	2,164	533	13,296	3,767	15.66	4.38	12.99	16.25	4.43	26.33
WA	2,546	5,772	566	3,308	5,447	893	33.43	2.57	3.47	37.24	2.23	6.32
Female	1,299	2,220	187	1,649	2,346	325	34.19	1.97	2.47	37.47	1.90	5.28
Male	1,247	3,552	379	1,659	3,101	568	32.67	3.17	4.34	37.01	2.57	7.12

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across all Indigenous groups

Table 12 Rates of marginally-housed persons per thousand persons within each Indigenous group

	Homelessness count						Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons					
	2016			2021			2016			2021		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated
ACT	32	690	-	32	1,010	16	4.91	1.87	0.00	3.60	2.36	1.04
Female	18	315	-	11	420	5	5.56	1.68	0.00	2.50	1.93	0.67
Male	14	375	-	21	590	11	4.28	2.07	0.00	4.66	2.80	1.39
NSW	1,663	35,161	425	1,849	30,679	395	7.70	5.16	0.97	6.66	4.15	1.02
Female	851	16,118	178	949	14,080	176	7.83	4.66	0.82	6.79	3.76	0.93
Male	812	19,043	247	900	16,599	219	7.57	5.68	1.12	6.52	4.56	1.12
NT	4,395	1,203	35	4,520	825	24	75.40	7.34	1.25	73.72	4.74	0.93
Female	2,250	526	12	2,338	389	8	77.34	6.76	0.97	75.62	4.52	0.68
Male	2,145	677	23	2,182	436	16	73.47	7.86	1.47	71.78	4.95	1.14
QLD	3,113	14,715	330	4,022	14,362	297	16.68	3.45	1.05	16.92	3.08	1.02
Female	1,619	6,505	140	2,042	6,703	133	17.14	3.00	0.91	16.96	2.82	0.97
Male	1,494	8,210	190	1,980	7,659	164	16.20	3.92	1.19	16.88	3.35	1.07
SA	415	3,967	38	558	4,509	46	12.15	2.57	0.47	13.12	2.71	0.67
Female	224	1,750	13	273	2,076	14	12.95	2.23	0.32	12.76	2.46	0.43
Male	191	2,217	25	285	2,433	32	11.32	2.92	0.61	13.48	2.98	0.90
TAS	68	846	14	101	1,624	20	2.91	1.89	0.48	3.36	3.26	0.81
Female	30	382	-	61	731	14	2.52	1.66	0.00	3.97	2.88	1.16
Male	38	464	14	40	893	6	3.31	2.12	0.96	2.72	3.66	0.47
VIC	233	21,524	349	416	20,640	207	4.87	3.92	1.03	6.35	3.38	0.73
Female	108	9,536	148	209	9,419	63	4.46	3.41	0.87	6.39	3.03	0.45
Male	125	11,988	201	207	11,221	144	5.29	4.46	1.21	6.31	3.74	1.01
WA	1,506	5,898	115	1,815	4,758	146	19.78	2.62	0.71	20.43	1.95	1.03
Female	828	2,617	53	945	2,245	67	21.80	2.33	0.70	21.47	1.82	1.09
Male	678	3,281	62	870	2,513	79	17.77	2.92	0.71	19.41	2.09	0.99

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across all Indigenous groups

Homelessness, by state, gender, and household structure

Table 13 provides a breakdown of homelessness rates by household type, further segmented by gender and jurisdiction. Throughout all states, children under 15, group household members, and unrelated individuals made up the primary proportions of homeless and marginally-housed persons per 1,000. An exception was noted for Visitors, presumed not to adhere to standard household structures. The Northern Territory displayed particularly higher rates for children (both under 15 and non-dependent) and lone parents categories. Between gender groups, female lone parents surpassed male lone parents in number in every state and within all homelessness categories.

Table 13 Rates of homelessness and marginally-housed per thousand persons by household structure across gender groups and stat

State	Type	Gender	Child, under 15	Visitor	Couple	Child, non-dependent	Group household member	Unrelated Individual	Lone parent
ACT	Homeless	Female	2.45	32.13	0.73	1.43	3.93	11.43	6.65
		Male	2.17	38.54	0.70	0.60	12.63	20.47	2.17
	Marginally-housed	Female	1.65	-	1.31	4.17	3.35	27.37	1.85
		Male	2.17	-	1.33	3.17	11.61	30.71	1.90
NSW	Homeless	Female	2.24	24.16	0.78	3.41	7.49	19.75	2.70
		Male	2.11	30.04	0.78	3.18	15.15	24.61	1.75
	Marginally-housed	Female	4.96	-	1.93	7.43	10.05	28.33	5.95
		Male	4.67	-	1.91	7.38	19.31	30.98	4.62
NT	Homeless	Female	62.11	40.82	30.45	163.61	5.47	36.96	97.20
		Male	60.52	46.60	31.93	119.88	7.89	37.07	60.58
	Marginally-housed	Female	32.47	0.44	21.11	60.73	4.10	30.48	43.87
		Male	31.74	-	21.61	52.43	4.73	31.64	30.29
QLD	Homeless	Female	2.99	33.14	0.57	4.74	4.27	10.28	4.55
		Male	3.25	39.61	0.52	3.98	8.10	11.60	1.79
	Marginally-housed	Female	4.87	0.06	1.59	7.44	3.82	14.52	6.31
		Male	4.77	-	1.58	7.37	5.34	13.38	3.26
SA	Homeless	Female	3.98	31.81	0.59	3.27	5.91	10.09	5.64
		Male	3.77	37.92	0.67	2.99	11.92	11.83	2.63
	Marginally-housed	Female	4.35	-	1.29	5.57	4.29	15.81	4.00
		Male	3.95	-	1.27	5.43	10.01	18.23	1.50
TAS	Homeless	Female	2.85	39.00	0.59	2.52	6.08	9.67	3.76
		Male	3.52	52.90	0.47	2.37	10.27	16.44	2.36
	Marginally-housed	Female	4.45	-	1.61	4.13	4.14	26.96	3.32
		Male	4.11	-	1.73	4.15	9.87	23.48	4.35
VIC	Homeless	Female	3.02	28.26	0.68	3.90	5.63	11.78	5.27
		Male	3.08	39.49	0.68	3.63	11.95	16.05	1.57
	Marginally-housed	Female	3.98	-	1.51	7.02	5.07	24.19	5.10
		Male	3.92	-	1.45	6.50	13.55	25.22	3.21
WA	Homeless	Female	1.47	37.98	0.35	3.14	3.68	8.08	3.18
		Male	1.49	52.45	0.40	2.90	7.18	8.21	1.13
	Marginally-housed	Female	3.30	0.09	1.11	5.42	1.73	13.22	4.33
		Male	3.44	0.25	1.13	4.67	2.51	16.56	4.57

Note: Rates are graded in pink for each state across all Indigenous groups

Homelessness, by state and migrant status

Table 14 compares homelessness rates by migrant status, utilising data from the Australian Citizenship (CITP) variable. It is important to acknowledge that the response rate for this variable was 5.1% in the 2021 survey. Despite the limited response rate, the data reveal a notable pattern: non-Australian groups exhibit a disproportionately high rate of homelessness. The recorded rates for non-Australian citizens in most states are at least two time higher than Australian citizens. The exception to this trend is in the Northern Territory, where there are high rates of Indigenous homelessness. Further exploration of this variable is advisable, especially in assessing whether migrant status, along with other related factors such as primary language spoken at home, has any correlation with homelessness rates in Australia.

Table 14 Homelessness and marginally-housed persons count and rates per thousand persons for each citizenship subgroup

Row Labels	2016		2021		2016		2021	
	Homelessness count	Marginally-housed persons count	Homelessness count	Marginally-housed persons count	Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons	Rate of marginally-housed per 1000 persons	Rate of homelessness per 1000 persons	Rate of marginally-housed per 1000 persons
ACT	1,573	728	1,788	1,024	3.97	1.84	3.95	2.26
Australian Citizen	866	367	958	417	2.59	1.10	2.47	1.07
Not an Australian Citizen	354	351	446	590	9.68	9.59	9.39	12.42
Not stated	353	10	384	17	14.00	0.40	23.45	1.04
NSW	37,343	37,193	34,736	32,729	5.00	4.98	4.31	4.06
Australian Citizen	19,626	21,514	18,654	20,591	3.18	3.48	2.77	3.05
Not an Australian Citizen	12,082	14,847	9,481	11,644	15.33	18.83	10.50	12.90
Not stated	5,635	832	6,601	494	11.18	1.65	16.16	1.21
NT	13,700	5,605	13,141	5,425	54.79	22.41	50.29	20.76
Australian Citizen	12,685	5,160	11,668	5,105	64.86	26.38	56.60	24.76
Not an Australian Citizen	327	356	321	243	14.26	15.52	12.08	9.14
Not stated	688	89	1,152	77	21.81	2.82	40.36	2.70
QLD	21,475	17,937	22,186	18,606	4.51	3.77	4.27	3.58
Australian Citizen	14,601	13,245	15,593	14,283	3.71	3.36	3.57	3.27
Not an Australian Citizen	3,689	4,267	3,315	3,984	7.94	9.19	6.42	7.71
Not stated	3,185	425	3,278	339	8.90	1.19	10.75	1.11
SA	6,002	4,418	7,304	5,105	3.62	2.66	4.12	2.88
Australian Citizen	3,780	3,035	4,928	3,545	2.65	2.13	3.20	2.30
Not an Australian Citizen	1,339	1,310	1,093	1,501	9.37	9.17	6.90	9.47
Not stated	883	73	1,283	59	9.45	0.78	17.78	0.82
TAS	1,564	926	2,324	1,730	3.12	1.85	4.20	3.13
Australian Citizen	1,240	774	1,588	1,128	2.77	1.73	3.28	2.33
Not an Australian Citizen	157	140	374	576	6.97	6.22	8.51	13.11
Not stated	167	12	362	26	5.31	0.38	14.40	1.03
VIC	24,589	21,933	30,361	21,150	4.19	3.73	4.70	3.27
Australian Citizen	12,676	11,890	14,979	12,713	2.64	2.48	2.80	2.37
Not an Australian Citizen	7,107	9,577	7,768	8,221	10.17	13.70	9.61	10.17
Not stated	4,806	466	7,614	216	12.70	1.23	25.78	0.73
WA	8,813	7,567	9,689	6,673	3.54	3.04	3.63	2.50
Australian Citizen	5,840	5,126	5,565	5,289	2.97	2.61	2.52	2.39
Not an Australian Citizen	1,670	2,247	906	1,196	5.07	6.82	3.00	3.96
Not stated	1,303	194	3,218	188	6.77	1.01	20.67	1.21

Note: Higher citizenship subgroups are highlighted in pink.

AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection

Australia's Specialist Homelessness Services (SHSs) collect data from clients seeking assistance, which the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) collates and publishes as the Specialist Homelessness Service Collection (SHSC). This section refers to the following variables in the SHSC Demographics data cube 2011-12 to 2021-22, using the following variables:

- Sex
- Main reason for seeking assistance
- Indigenous status
- Disability requiring assistance
- Age

Due to the large volume of data, the variable 'Main reason for seeking assistance' provided by the SHSC was reduced to eight categories. These groupings are summarised in **Table 15**.

Table 15 SHS reasons for seeking assistance groupings

Reason category	SHS reason for seeking assistance
FDV	Domestic and family violence
	Sexual abuse
Community	Lack of family and/or community support
	Relationship/family breakdown
	Time out from family/other situation
Education	Disengagement with school or other education and training
Financial/ Employment	Employment difficulties
	Financial difficulties
	Unemployment
Health	Medical issues
	Mental health issues
	Problematic alcohol use
	Problematic drug or substance use
	Problematic gambling
Housing	Housing affordability stress
	Housing crisis
	Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions
	Itinerant
	Previous accommodation ended
Institutional	Transition from custodial arrangements
	Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements
	Transition from other care arrangements
NA	Invalid or missing
Others	Discrimination including racial discrimination
	Non-family violence
	Other
	Unable to return home due to environmental reasons

SHS data is recorded by financial year. For consistency with the ABS Census data, this report focusses on 2016-17 and 2021-22.

Specialist Homelessness Services Use

Nationally, use of SHSs by clients decreased between 2016-17 to 2021-22. Only the Northern Territory recorded increased SHS use over the period. The reductions in SHS use are largely attributable to males, with female SHS use increasing in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia, and not changing greatly in other jurisdictions. The high number of Victorian users is a persistent feature of the dataset.

Table 16. SHS use by sex and state or territory

State/Gender	SHS Users 2016-2017	SHS Users 2021-2022	Difference (%)
ACT	4,585	3,811	-16.88%
Female	2168	2,194	1.20%
Male	1968	1,617	-17.84%
NSW	74,216	68,473	-7.74%
Female	42,304	40,957	-3.18%
Male	31,912	27,516	-13.78%
NT	9,187	10,096	9.89%
Female	5,927	6,438	8.62%
Male	3260	3,658	12.21%
QLD	41,438	41,587	0.36%
Female	23,142	24,540	6.04%
Male	18269	17,047	-6.69%
SA	20,771	18,030	-13.20%
Female	12,591	10,822	-14.05%
Male	8,180	7,208	-11.88%
TAS	7,789	6,977	-10.42%
Female	4,029	3,976	-1.32%
Male	3759	3,001	-20.16%
VIC	109,901	101,675	-7.48%
Female	68,778	61,206	-11.01%
Male	41,112	40,469	-1.56%
WA	24,626	24,707	0.33%
Female	15,486	15,938	2.92%
Male	9,174	8,769	-4.41%
Total	292,513	275,356	-5.87%

Note: Percentage differences are graded in pink across all gender groups and states.

Reasons for seeking Specialist Homelessness Services

Table 17 show the two predominant reasons for SHS use being 'Housing' (including access and affordability of housing) and 'FDV' related issues (including family and domestic violence and sexual violence). Housing is the leading reason for both females and males to seek SHS assistance, but many more females than males seek assistance because of FDV. It is worth noting that these males may include children, as age group distinctions were not included in this dataset.

Table 17. Reasons for seeking assistance from the SHS Demographic data cube.

Reason for seeking assistance	Female	Male	Total
FDV	35.14%	14.39%	26.90%
Community	6.45%	6.70%	6.55%
Education	0.22%	0.35%	0.27%
Financial	9.77%	11.41%	10.42%
Health	2.20%	3.24%	2.61%
Housing	38.65%	50.20%	43.24%
Institutional	1.03%	5.14%	2.66%
Other	1.04%	1.74%	1.32%

Note: Percentage differences are graded in pink across all gender groups.

Across all states, women consistently formed the majority of SHS users (**Table 17**). Housing-related causes were especially prominent in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia (see **Table 18**). Financial reasons were also identified as another common factor driving SHS use among men and women. For women, this emerged as the third most frequent cause for seeking homelessness services on a national scale.

Table 18. Reasons for seeking SHS assistance by state and gender. High SHS use is highlighted red.

State	FDV	Community	Education	Financial/ Employment	Health	Housing	Institutional	Others	NA
ACT	16.4%	10.7%	0.0%	5.3%	3.5%	54.9%	2.2%	6.7%	0.4%
Female	20.9%	12.2%	0.1%	5.6%	3.9%	50.7%	1.3%	4.9%	0.4%
Male	10.3%	8.6%	0.0%	5.0%	2.8%	60.5%	3.4%	9.0%	0.4%
NSW	23.6%	9.1%	0.7%	9.9%	3.1%	45.6%	1.8%	5.3%	0.9%
Female	29.9%	9.2%	0.6%	9.4%	2.8%	41.5%	1.0%	4.9%	0.8%
Male	14.4%	9.0%	0.8%	10.7%	3.6%	51.6%	2.8%	6.0%	1.1%
NT	37.4%	6.8%	0.3%	3.0%	2.3%	22.6%	2.2%	6.0%	19.4%
Female	46.5%	7.8%	0.3%	2.4%	2.1%	19.7%	1.4%	6.6%	13.3%
Male	21.2%	5.1%	0.3%	4.1%	2.7%	27.8%	3.7%	5.1%	30.0%
QLD	18.6%	6.6%	0.1%	12.7%	1.9%	52.8%	1.4%	5.7%	0.2%
Female	24.0%	6.3%	0.0%	11.8%	1.5%	50.0%	0.6%	5.6%	0.2%
Male	10.9%	6.9%	0.1%	14.1%	2.4%	56.9%	2.6%	6.0%	0.2%
SA	21.1%	3.0%	0.1%	0.8%	1.1%	69.4%	2.8%	1.8%	0.0%
Female	28.8%	3.4%	0.1%	0.7%	0.8%	63.5%	0.9%	1.8%	0.0%
Male	9.5%	2.4%	0.2%	0.8%	1.4%	78.2%	5.6%	1.9%	0.0%
TAS	12.2%	11.4%	0.0%	2.2%	4.5%	59.1%	3.3%	6.8%	0.6%
Female	16.3%	11.2%	0.0%	1.8%	3.6%	58.1%	1.5%	7.1%	0.4%
Male	6.7%	11.5%	0.0%	2.8%	5.7%	60.4%	5.7%	6.3%	0.9%
VIC	33.0%	4.7%	0.1%	12.1%	2.2%	37.3%	4.2%	5.6%	0.8%
Female	44.0%	4.3%	0.1%	11.6%	1.7%	31.6%	1.3%	4.7%	0.7%
Male	16.4%	5.3%	0.1%	13.0%	3.0%	45.8%	8.6%	6.9%	1.0%
WA	30.5%	7.5%	0.4%	14.1%	4.7%	28.3%	1.0%	13.0%	0.4%
Female	38.2%	7.6%	0.1%	12.4%	4.0%	25.1%	0.6%	11.7%	0.4%
Male	16.7%	7.4%	0.9%	17.3%	5.9%	34.2%	1.8%	15.4%	0.4%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all reasons per state.

SHS use and age

Females represent 60.3% of all SHS users, with approximately half of all SHS users falling into the Young age group, and similarly, about half of all female SHS users are young females (ref. **Table 19**). Young women make up a substantial 30% of SHS users, compared to 21% of young men, and account for 50% of female SHS users. Young people, in general, constitute half of the total SHS usage. However, the Young group witnessed a decline in SHS use from 2016-17 to 2021-22 in most jurisdictions, while the Senior group saw the most substantial increase, at 14%. This rise was particularly significant among elder persons, at 16%. Conversely, there was an overall decline in usage among middle and younger age groups, most notably a 12% reduction among young males.

Table 19. National count of SHS users between 2021-2022 by age group

National SHS users/ age group	Females			Males		
	Count	% of female SHS users	% Total SHS users	Count	% of male SHS users	% of Total SHS users
Senior	8,586	5.2%	3.2%	6,930	6.4%	2.5%
Mid Age	74,081	45.1%	27.2%	44,005	40.7%	16.1%
Young	80,991	49.3%	29.7%	56,634	52.3%	20.8%
N/A	773	0.5%	0.3%	694	0.6%	0.3%
Total	164,431	100.0%	60.3%	108,263	100.0%	39.7%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all age groups by gender.

Table 20 SHS use by age 2016-17 to 2021-22

Age Group	Female			Male			Total		
	2016-17	2021-22	Change (%)	2016-17	2021-22	Change (%)	2016-17	2021-22	Change (%)
Senior	7,587	8,586	13.2%	5,825	6,930	19.0%	13,413	15,516	15.7%
Mid Age	75,555	74,081	-2.0%	44,954	44,005	-2.1%	120,509	118,086	-2.0%
Young	88,478	80,991	-8.5%	64,074	56,634	-11.6%	152,552	137,625	-9.8%
N/A	909	773	-15.0%	890	694	-22.0%	1,799	1,467	-18.5%
Total	172,530	164,431	-4.7%	115,744	108,263	-6.5%	288,273	272,694	-5.4%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all age groups by gender.

SHS by Indigenous persons

The AIHW SHS data show that Indigenous persons are highly represented in overall SHS use, accounting for almost 27% of all SHS users nationally. Rates are especially high in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and Queensland (ref. **Table 21**).

Table 21. Percentage of Indigenous persons using SHS services

State	Females		Male		Total	
	Count	% of total state SHS use	Count	% of total state SHS use	Count	% of total state SHS use
ACT	415	18.9%	321	19.9%	1,057	19.3%
NSW	12,832	31.3%	8,541	31.0%	29,914	31.2%
NT	5,227	81.2%	2,530	69.2%	10,287	76.8%
QLD	9,151	37.3%	5,957	34.9%	21,065	36.3%
SA	2,685	24.8%	1,802	25.0%	6,289	24.9%
TAS	656	16.5%	450	15.0%	1,556	15.9%
VIC	6,851	11.2%	4,317	10.7%	15,485	11.0%
WA	7,926	49.7%	4,294	49.0%	16,514	49.5%
Total	45,743	27.5%	28,212	25.8%	102,167	26.9%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all state by gender.

Indigenous SHS clients nominate FDV as the primary reason for seeking assistance at higher rates than non-Indigenous persons (ref. Table 22). The figures span from 9.77% in Victoria to 83.47% in the Northern Territory. Notable instances of significant FDV-related cases are also identified in Western Australia (41.75%), Queensland (33.02%), South Australia (20.51%), and New South Wales (24.24%).

Table 22. Family and domestic violence rates by state and Indigenous status

FDV as main reason SHS use	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total	% Indigenous
ACT	69	387	2	458	15.07%
NSW	2,943	8,985	211	12,139	24.24%
NT	2,439	431	52	2,922	83.47%
QLD	1,937	3,468	462	5,867	33.02%
SA	623	2,011	403	3,037	20.51%
TAS	111	507	12	630	17.62%
VIC	2,620	20,957	3,231	26,808	9.77%
WA	2,522	3,499	20	6,041	41.75%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all state.

SHS use by persons with a disability

Nationally, the use of Specialist Homelessness Services by people with disability dropped by 34% (see **Table 23**) between 2016-17 and 2021-22. The decline was similar for both males and females. Only South Australia recorded an increase (26%) in SHS use by persons with disability.

Table 23 SHS use by disability prevalence and gender for 2016-17 and 2021-22

State	Sum of 2016-17	Sum of 2021-22	% change
ACT	81	46	-43.2%
Female	96	43	-55.2%
Male	178	89	-50.0%
NSW	1,628	860	-47.2%
Female	1,532	927	-39.5%
Male	3,160	1,787	-43.5%
NT	176	106	-39.8%
Female	129	86	-33.3%
Male	306	192	-37.3%
QLD	617	482	-21.9%
Female	674	477	-29.2%
Male	1,290	959	-25.7%
SA	339	428	26.3%
Female	336	415	23.5%
Male	674	843	25.1%
TAS	247	86	-65.2%
Female	257	106	-58.8%
Male	504	192	-61.9%
VIC	2,011	1,479	-26.5%
Female	1,932	1,487	-23.0%
Male	3,943	2,966	-24.8%
WA	558	236	-57.7%
Female	661	177	-73.2%
Male	1,219	413	-66.1%
Total	5,658	3,723	-34.2%
Female	5,617	3,718	-33.8%
Male	11,275	7,441	-34.0%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all state and gender.

Housing-related issues emerged as the predominant reason for SHS service usage nationally, comprising 54% of all cases involving individuals with disability (ref. **Table 24**). The second most common cause of SHS service usage for both women and men with disability was FDV-related issues, which includes both family domestic violence and sexual abuse. Among women with disability, this accounted for 23% of reasons for seeking SHS services, compared to 12% for men. Following this, health-related and financial/employment-related issues each accounted for 6% of SHS service utilisation by women with disability.

Table 24 Reasons for seeking SHS assistance by persons with disability nationally

Reason for seeking SHS	Female	Male	Total
FDV	23.37%	12.40%	17.89%
Community	5.18%	5.59%	5.39%
Education	0.03%	0.08%	0.05%
Financial/Employment	6.20%	6.78%	6.49%
Health	5.53%	6.51%	6.02%
Housing	50.42%	57.91%	54.16%
Institutional	3.87%	4.33%	4.10%
NA	0.54%	0.46%	0.50%
Other	4.86%	5.94%	5.40%

Note: Percentage rates are graded in pink across all state and gender.

Finally, in this section, we turn to another SHS statistical series that enables us to calibrate homelessness trends up to and including 2022-23. Since 2020 the AIHW has been publishing monthly as well as annual statistics that monitor SHS agency caseloads – i.e., persons assisted. Because these statistics are released on a quarterly cycle, they provide an opportunity to gauge recent homelessness trends in a timely manner. Presented below, therefore, are a series of graphs showing changes over time since 2017-18 on an indexed basis and running right through to 30 June 2023. The calibrated statistic is the average monthly caseload of persons provided with SHS services during each financial year. Presented on this basis, we can eliminate the impacts of seasonal factors which otherwise distort associated patterns.

1. National Monthly SHS Caseload, 2016-2023

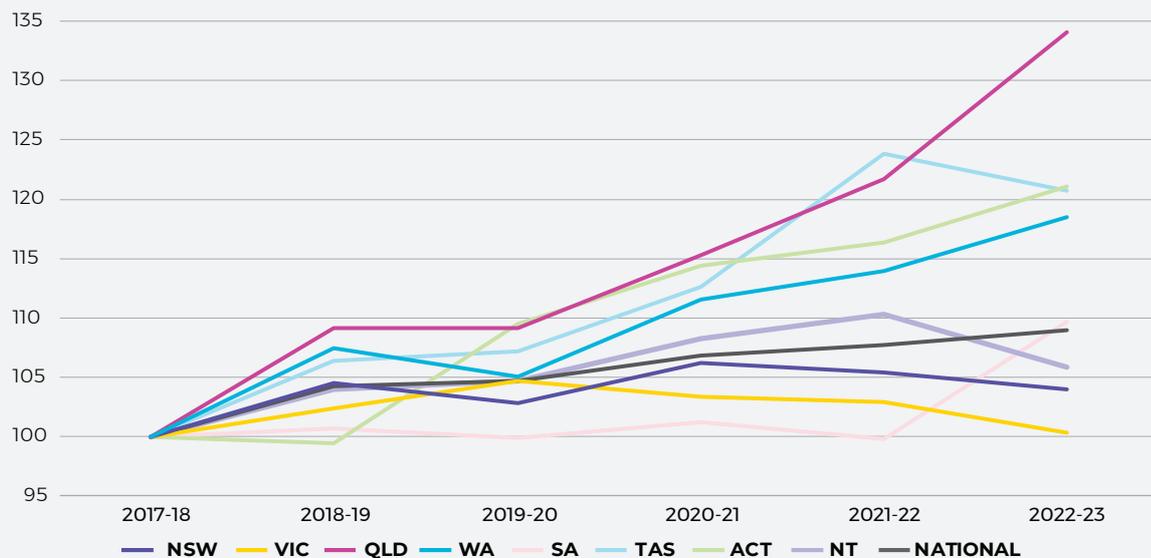


Figure 1 Persons assisted by SHS agencies: average monthly caseload for each financial year, indexed (2017-18=100)

Figure 1 illustrates the significant inter-jurisdictional changes in SHS caseloads over the past five years. While the average monthly national caseload is up by 9% over this period, much faster growth rates have been seen in Queensland (34%), in ACT and Tasmania (21%). Conversely, in the largest states, NSW and Vic, growth rates (4% and 0%, respectively) have been well below the national norm.

Australia-wide, the recent increase in homelessness caseloads involving men has been slightly greater than for women (ref. **Figure 2**).

At state/territory level, however, there are major divergences from the national trend. For example, in NSW assisted women increased by 8% over the past five years, while male clients assisted fell by 2% (ref. **Figure 3**). Similarly, in Queensland female service user numbers grew by 41% while male clients increased by only 25% (ref. **Figure 4**). In Victoria, by contrast, average monthly female service users were down by 6% during the period, while male assisted clients grew in number by 12% (ref. **Figure 5**). The extent to which such apparent differences are statistical artefacts or whether they represent meaningful underlying divergences is difficult to know. Further investigation of such contrasts would probably call for consultation with SHS data managers.

2: Australia, persons assisted by SHS agencies

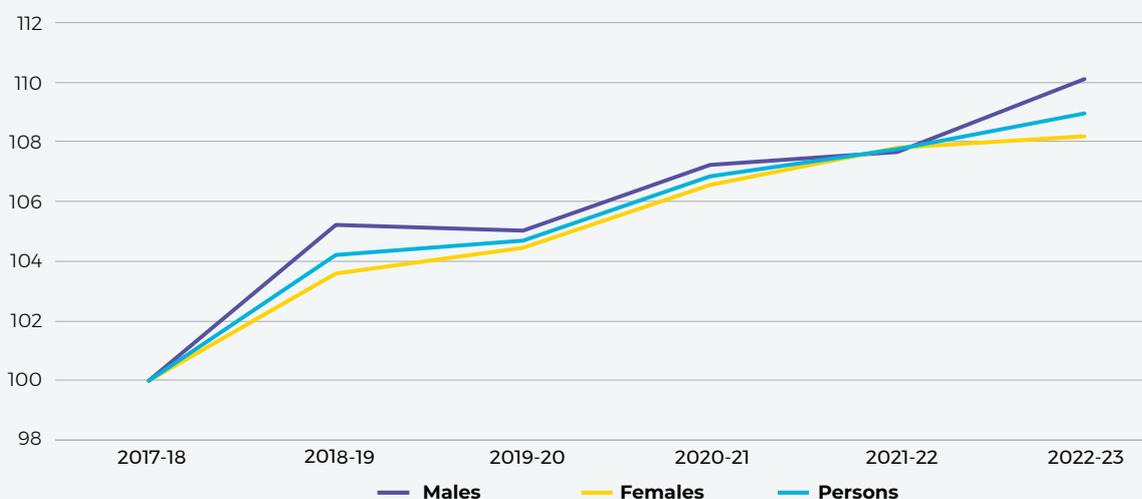


Figure 2 Persons assisted by SHS agencies: average monthly caseload by gender, National indexed (2017-18=100)

3: New South Wales, persons assisted by SHS agencies

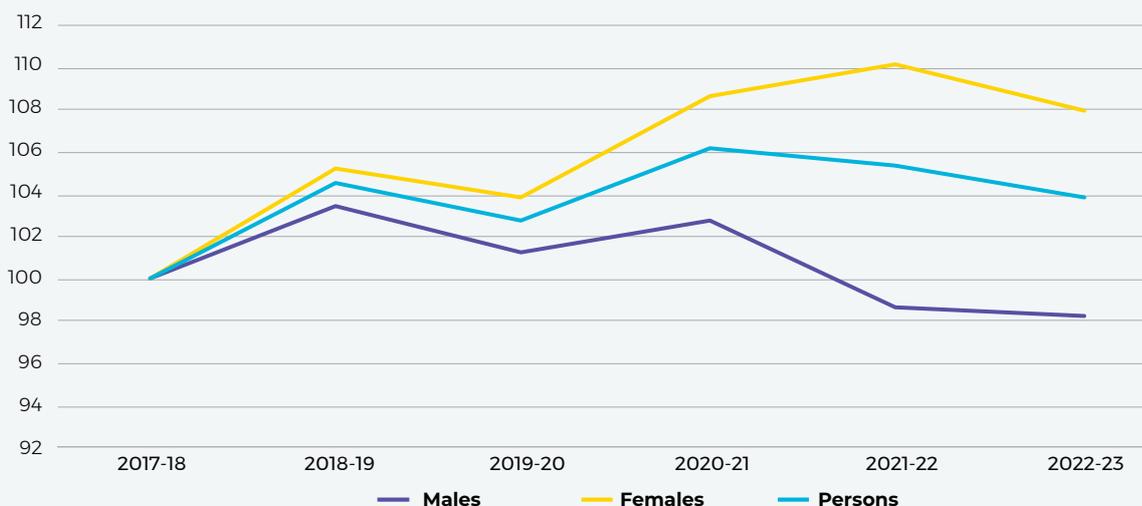


Figure 3 Persons assisted by SHS agencies: average monthly caseload by gender – NSW, indexed (2017-18=100)

4: Queensland, persons assisted by SHS agencies

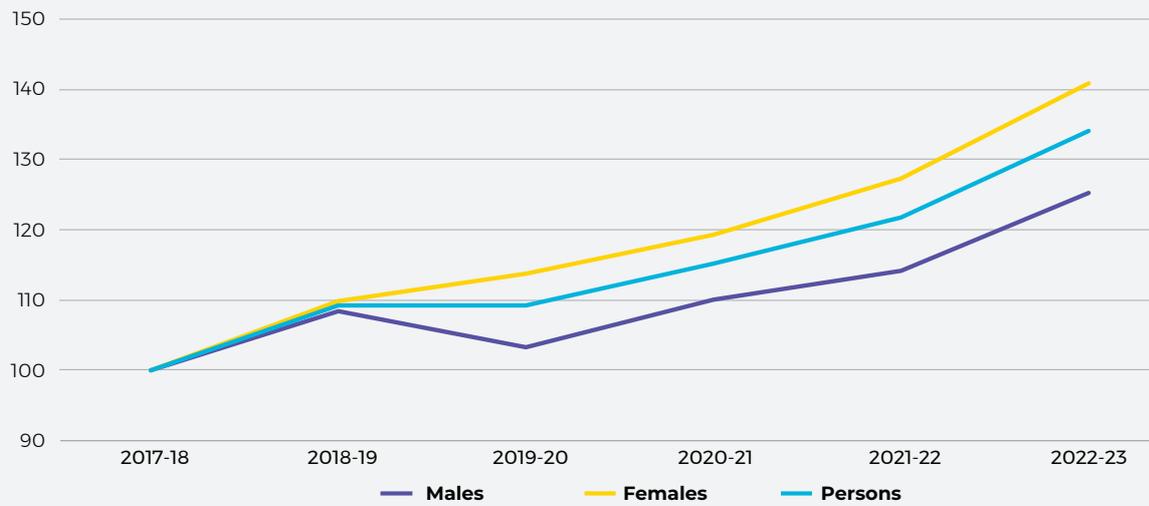


Figure 4 Persons assisted by SHS agencies: average monthly caseload by gender – QLD, indexed (2017-18=100)

5: Victoria, persons assisted by SHS agencies

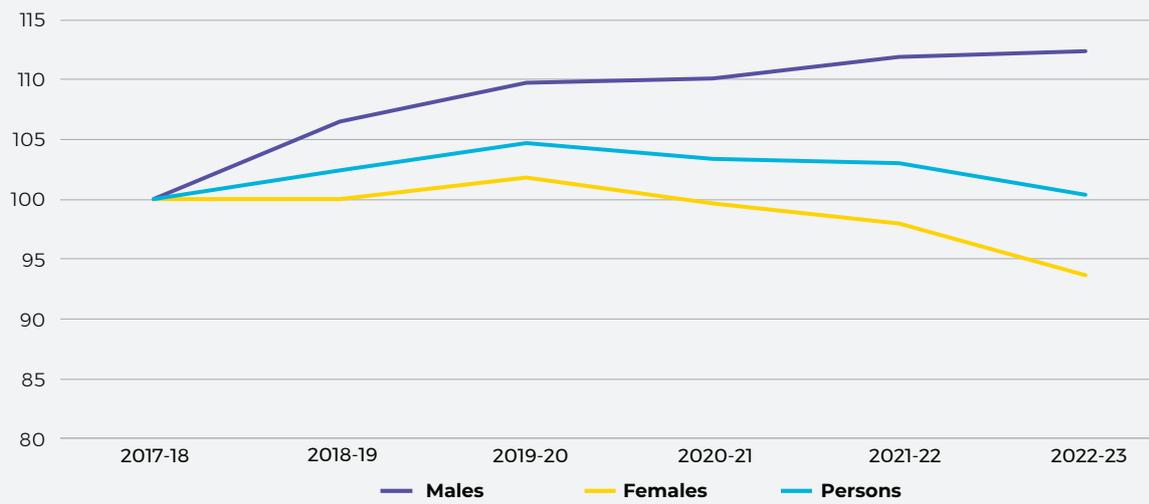


Figure 5 Persons assisted by SHS agencies: average monthly caseload by gender – VIC, indexed (2017-18=100)

2.2. Metadata audit

Table 25. Table of metrics and their corresponding metadata audit

Metric	Variable	Dataset	Source	Recommended spatial resolution	Available temporal resolution	Notes and Limitations
Homelessness count, by gender	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups SEXP Sex	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness 2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	<p>The definition of the ABS Homelessness Operational Groups are predefined and may not encapsulate broader homelessness definitions. It may also include persons that may not necessarily be homeless, including those living in special circumstances. The ABS provides examples that include those living in hospitals, prisons, student halls or religious orders (ABS, 2021a).</p> <p>The ABS also distinguishes gender and sex (ABS, 2021b) in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex is understood in relation to sex characteristics. Sex recorded at birth refers to what was determined by sex characteristics observed at birth or infancy • Gender is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience. <p>Limitations of this on data collection are elucidated by the ABS (2021b).</p>
Homelessness counts, by gender and age group	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups AGE10P Age SEXP Sex	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness 2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	<p>Census 2021 and Census 2016 enable the breakdown of homelessness counts by age and sex. This includes a breakdown of age profiles in 10-year and 5-year groups for aggregated analyses. Individual ages are also provided; however, this increases the dataset set accordingly and may require additional work to quantify. 10-year age groups are recommended as they align to the YWCA's breakdown of demographic groups.</p>
Homelessness counts, by Indigenous status	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups INGP Indigenous Status	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness 2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	<p>Census 2021 and Census 2016 provide Indigenous status within its homelessness counts. This is enumerated by 'Aboriginal', 'Torres Strait Islander', and 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' responses. It is important to note however the data collected is a considered a reflection of personal self-identification, and whether a person identifies with their indigeneity.</p>
Homelessness, by household structure	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups RLHP Relationship in Household	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness 2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	<p>The RLHP Relationship in Household variable describes the relationship of each person in the family. The dataset is highly depended on respondent's ability to describe relationships within the constraints of the Census. As such, multigenerational and blended family structures can be represented in a complex way.</p>

Metric	Variable	Dataset	Source	Recommended spatial resolution	Available temporal resolution	Notes and Limitations
Homelessness, by disability prevalence	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	The ASSNP Core Activity Need for Assistance variable provides an indication of the number of respondents that have a profound or severe core activity limitation and requires those needing assistance in their day to day lives. The concept of 'core activity need for assistance' is related to the ABS's Survey of Disability, Ageing, and Carers (SDAC) criteria.
	ASSNP Core Activity Need for Assistance	2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness				
Homelessness, by migrant status	OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups	2021 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	The CITP Australian Citizenship variable is used as a proxy for migrant status. It is important to note that this variable relates to respondent's citizenship at census night, and does not provide indication of their country of birth or predominantly language spoken, which may affect their ability to enter the private rental market. Another potential dataset that can be cross-classified with the CITP datasets is the BPLP Country of Birth variable to obtain this more granular information.
	CITP Australian Citizenship	2016 Census – counting persons, estimating homelessness				
Persons in non-private dwelling	SEXP Sex	2021 Census – counting persons, place of enumeration	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Statistical Area 3 to state	5-yearly	<p>The DLOD Dwelling Location variable classifies dwellings based on their location in large communal locations, with standard housing usually falling in the 'other' category. The definition of each available communal area is based on the ABS Address Register. Occasional mis identification may be present due to the dwelling location falling into more than one category, for example, in residential parks that also contain caravans and manufactured homes.</p> <p>The NDPP Type of Non-Private Dwelling provides a disaggregation of non-private dwelling types. It is important to note that data collection here are census enumeration and address lists obtained from state and territory government. As such, there may be discrepancies between how comprehensive these data sources are between census years.</p> <p>LLDD Landlord Type provides information on rented dwellings, including caravan parks, occupied tents, and houseboats. Its relatively developed census data variable, with a high response rate.</p>
	DLOD Dwelling Location	2016 Census – counting persons, place of enumeration				
	NPDD Type of Non-Private Dwelling	2016 Census – counting persons, place of enumeration				
	LLDD Landlord Type	2016 Census – counting persons, place of enumeration				

Metric	Variable	Dataset	Source	Recommended spatial resolution	Available temporal resolution	Notes and Limitations
Count of SHS Users	Client Count Financial Year	SHSC Demographics	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	State	Annually	The SHS Demographic data cubes provide a up-to-date proxy for homelessness numbers as it is available annually, in comparison to the 5-yearly intervals with the ABS Census. It should be noted however that the SHS Demographic data cube, which provides demographic information on its users, is only available at the state-level and cannot be analysed in more fine-grained detail.
Count of SHS Users, by age groups	Client Count Financial Year Age Group	SHSC Demographics	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	State	Annually	The Age Group variable is available in irregular preset intervals. This limits its use to cross validate against data available from the ABS Census. Further, it also limits the usability of the data in creating new age categories based on alternative age group definitions.
Count of SHS Users, by Indigenous status	Client Count Financial Year Indigenous Status	SHSC Demographics	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	State	Annually	The Indigenous Status variable provides a count for Indigenous, and Not Indigenous categories. It is noted that the variable pre-classifies Indigenous groupings, so no further disaggregation is available.
Count of SHS Users, by disability requiring assistance	Client Count Financial Year Disability requiring assistance	SHSC Demographics	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	State	Annually	Disability requiring assistance classifies users in a binary category of 'Yes' and 'No'. The variable encompasses those individuals with a long-term (over six months) health condition or disability restrictions in every-day activity. This includes conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, mental health conditions, hearing loss, depression, etc., which differs from the ABS's ASSNP Core Activity Need for Assistance. No other information is provided regarding the type of disability,
Count of SHS Users by main reason for seeking assistance	Client Count Financial Year Main reason for seeking assistance	SHSC Demographics	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	State	Annually	The Main Reason for Seeking Assistance variable is classified and compiled at the SHS service provider or homelessness services agency level. It relies on definitions utilised by individual agencies to assign the nature of assistance, which may result in data discrepancies. Further note should be taken on the enumeration of children's reasons, as these may be classified in ambiguous categories (Others, With Parents, With Guardians).

3 CONCLUSIONS

This report has detailed prevalence and trends in homeless and marginal housing among different groups in Australia's population, as estimated at the Census and as counted in SHS client data, in the two most recent Census years (2016 and 2021). Through the examination of the available datasets, insight is gained into the representations of women in homelessness figures in Australia. This data audit highlights the overrepresentation of certain groups, particularly women of diverse backgrounds. These findings shed a light on issues of gender and ethnic disparities in homelessness rates, age-related vulnerabilities, household complexities, and the influence of factors such as disability and migrant status. The research presses the urgent need for tailored interventions that consider these dimensions and encourages policymakers, organisations, and communities to address homelessness more effectively throughout the country.

The limitations and gaps identified in the report emphasise the importance of continuous research, innovation, and collaboration. This study found significant obstacles in identifying more intersectional experiences of homelessness amongst women. This is particularly significant for young women heading households, and people of diverse genders leading households. Additionally, lack of quantitative insight into hidden avenues of homelessness, which as referenced above is disproportionately overrepresented by women, makes understanding the true nature of homelessness amongst Australian women difficult. Moreover, high quality data that highlights representation of diverse groups is difficult to obtain. It is recommended further studies should strive to delve deeper into the underlying causes of homelessness, looking at both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to paint a holistic picture of the phenomena.

Data insights into the experiences of Indigenous people, diverse age groups, migrant groups, the LGBTQI+ community, people with disability and people living in rural and regional areas are incredibly important in providing insight into how homelessness manifests and is experienced. It is imperative that future efforts not only continue to refine the data analysis but also prioritise the voices of those directly affected by homelessness, empowering their narratives to shape policies that genuinely resonate with their needs and aspirations.

We consider future further work and limitations of the present work as the following:

1. **Further in-depth analysis on demographic intersectionality:** The current analysis primarily focuses on individual demographic factors such as gender, age, Indigenous status, disability, migrant status, and family structure; in addition to the intersectionality between these demographic dimensions. Future research could explore the complex interactions between these factors, considering how they compound and influence homelessness experiences. Further work on migration patterns based on the research findings have been identified, which have shown to be linked to increases in homelessness incidences in both capital city areas, as well as regional areas.
2. **Extending current factor analyses:** Moving beyond descriptive analysis, future research could delve into causal relationships between systemic factors and homelessness. Exploring how economic downturns, policy changes, or social factors directly impact homelessness rates can inform targeted interventions. Further analysis into the precursors of homelessness including the loss of employment, FDV, housing affordability should also be investigated further. At present, these are reviewed at a surface level; however, as the findings of the study suggest, a much more complex interplay between these factors may exist to precipitate homelessness across the nation.
3. **Qualitative and person-focussed studies:** Further work suggested included conducting research through interviews, focus groups, and case studies to provide a more in-depth understanding of the lived-experiences of individuals facing homelessness. Such research may uncover narratives and factors contributing to homelessness not seen or reflected in data. It is believed that it would serve as a complement, providing a more relatable representation of the quantitative aspects of this present research.

Finally, in shaping the road ahead, this research advocates operationalising these data-driven insights and transforming them into tangible actions. Strategic investments in affordable housing, targeted support for vulnerable populations, improved accessibility to mental health services, and innovative economic strategies are among the critical pathways to alleviate homelessness. By synthesising this data, it is hoped that YWCA will be able to continue and strategise its ongoing work and programmes, continuing its work on creating more inclusive societies, offering the promise of a better future for those who deserve the stability and security of a place to call home.

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5 APPENDICES

5.1. Homelessness, by Statistical Area 4 and gender

Data in **Table 26** is obtained from Census 2016 and Census 2021.

Table 26. Aggregated homelessness and marginally-housed persons count by SA4 and gender.

	2016	2021		2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count	Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Adelaide – Central and Hills	1,474	1,122	Brisbane – South	2,858	2,515
Female	545	471	Female	1,231	1,087
Male	929	651	Male	1,627	1,428
Adelaide – North	3,242	4,819	Brisbane – West	503	377
Female	1,410	2,262	Female	226	175
Male	1,832	2,557	Male	277	202
Adelaide – South	1,460	1,769	Brisbane Inner City	3,656	2,071
Female	647	875	Female	1,241	655
Male	813	894	Male	2,415	1,416
Adelaide – West	1,599	1,686	Bunbury	933	1,136
Female	625	756	Female	418	501
Male	974	930	Male	515	635
Australian Capital Territory	2,273	2,792	Cairns	3,931	4,002
Female	931	1,137	Female	1,815	1,876
Male	1,342	1,655	Male	2,116	2,126
Ballarat	716	989	Capital Region	1,240	1,283
Female	302	446	Female	557	597
Male	414	543	Male	683	686
Barossa – Yorke – Mid North	387	552	Central Coast	1,707	1,379
Female	164	265	Female	727	668
Male	223	287	Male	980	711
Bendigo	717	992	Central Queensland	1,771	1,796
Female	302	458	Female	697	816
Male	415	534	Male	1,074	980
Brisbane – East	835	676	Central West	815	1,065
Female	366	308	Female	384	505
Male	469	368	Male	431	560
Brisbane – North	1,161	1,194	Coffs Harbour – Grafton	1,445	1,195
Female	499	564	Female	671	555
Male	662	630	Male	774	640

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Darling Downs – Maranoa	754	928
Female	319	442
Male	435	486
Darwin	2,766	2,619
Female	1,223	1,279
Male	1,543	1,340
Far West and Orana	1,043	1,065
Female	480	468
Male	563	597
Geelong	1,322	2,287
Female	542	940
Male	780	1,347
Gold Coast	3,122	3,149
Female	1,229	1,365
Male	1,893	1,784
Hobart	1,201	1,970
Female	480	849
Male	721	1,121
Hume	861	1,060
Female	376	506
Male	485	554
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	1,262	1,483
Female	556	688
Male	706	795
Illawarra	1,685	1,640
Female	730	771
Male	955	869
Ipswich	2,751	3,508
Female	1,261	1,685
Male	1,490	1,823
Latrobe – Gippsland	1,160	1,680
Female	537	796
Male	623	884
Launceston and North East	584	984
Female	272	439
Male	312	545

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Logan – Beaudesert	3,032	3,971
Female	1,376	1,928
Male	1,656	2,043
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	1,247	1,265
Female	490	556
Male	757	709
Mandurah	450	475
Female	188	227
Male	262	248
Melbourne – Inner	7,175	4,999
Female	3,028	2,010
Male	4,147	2,989
Melbourne – Inner East	1,883	1,810
Female	738	724
Male	1,145	1,086
Melbourne - Inner South	1,692	1,783
Female	761	760
Male	931	1,023
Melbourne – North East	3,407	3,906
Female	1,551	1,683
Male	1,856	2,223
Melbourne – North West	3,691	3,638
Female	1,651	1,626
Male	2,040	2,012
Melbourne – Outer East	2,238	2,385
Female	1,065	1,097
Male	1,173	1,288
Melbourne – South East	9,479	11,612
Female	3,925	5,003
Male	5,554	6,609
Melbourne – West	8,288	9,125
Female	3,618	4,100
Male	4,670	5,025
Mid North Coast	1,527	1,738
Female	668	812
Male	859	926

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Moreton Bay – North	1,679	1,967
Female	754	900
Male	925	1,067
Moreton Bay – South	697	873
Female	344	420
Male	353	453
Mornington Peninsula	1,461	1,687
Female	650	683
Male	811	1,004
Murray	428	599
Female	175	288
Male	253	311
New England and North West	1,292	1,128
Female	565	555
Male	727	573
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	1,938	2,085
Female	814	886
Male	1,124	1,199
North West	835	1,487
Female	359	662
Male	476	825
Northern Territory – Outback	16,563	15,872
Female	8,462	8,255
Male	8,101	7,617
Perth – Inner	1,181	1,163
Female	458	489
Male	723	674
Perth – North East	1,410	1,802
Female	619	834
Male	791	968
Perth – North West	2,145	1,980
Female	947	893
Male	1,198	1,087

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Perth – South East	2,969	2,664
Female	1,248	1,242
Male	1,721	1,422
Perth – South West	1,606	1,519
Female	613	612
Male	993	907
Queensland – Outback	3,432	3,111
Female	1,723	1,546
Male	1,709	1,565
Richmond – Tweed	2,321	2,387
Female	907	1,045
Male	1,414	1,342
Riverina	749	1,187
Female	330	539
Male	419	648
Shepparton	1,097	1,323
Female	475	612
Male	622	711
South Australia – Outback	1,194	1,364
Female	581	674
Male	613	690
South Australia – South East	1,054	1,158
Female	387	516
Male	667	642
South East	189	239
Female	91	95
Male	98	144
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	793	910
Female	379	412
Male	414	498
Sunshine Coast	1,925	2,155
Female	832	1,055
Male	1,093	1,100

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	930	819
Female	449	407
Male	481	412
Sydney - Blacktown	3,955	3,623
Female	1,903	1,757
Male	2,052	1,866
Sydney - City and Inner South	9,801	6,935
Female	3,947	2,698
Male	5,854	4,237
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	2,214	1,917
Female	904	736
Male	1,310	1,181
Sydney - Inner South West	9,316	8,776
Female	4,016	3,686
Male	5,300	5,090
Sydney - Inner West	4,318	3,985
Female	1,566	1,390
Male	2,752	2,595
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	1,586	1,260
Female	741	531
Male	845	729
Sydney - Northern Beaches	1,063	882
Female	488	350
Male	575	532
Sydney - Outer South West	2,056	2,157
Female	1,021	1,107
Male	1,035	1,050
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	2,007	1,934
Female	953	970
Male	1,054	964
Sydney - Parramatta	9,845	8,027
Female	3,433	3,239
Male	6,412	4,788

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Gender	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney - Ryde	983	739
Female	464	337
Male	519	402
Sydney - South West	7,500	6,893
Female	3,809	3,498
Male	3,691	3,395
Sydney - Sutherland	583	444
Female	236	182
Male	347	262
Toowoomba	885	1,397
Female	411	691
Male	474	706
Townsville	2,250	2,161
Female	1,025	968
Male	1,225	1,193
Warrnambool and South West	456	757
Female	191	361
Male	265	396
West and North West	510	790
Female	235	382
Male	275	408
Western Australia - Outback (North)	3,221	2,937
Female	1,645	1,520
Male	1,576	1,417
Western Australia - Outback (South)	1,594	1,783
Female	745	870
Male	849	913
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	912	914
Female	362	404
Male	550	510
Wide Bay	2,928	3,491
Female	1,227	1,537
Male	1,701	1,954

5.2. Homelessness count, by Statistical Area 4 and Indigenous status

Data in **Table 27** is obtained from Census 2016 and Census 2021.

Table 27. Aggregated homelessness and marginally-housed persons count by SA4 and Indigenous status

	2016	2021		2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count	SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Adelaide – Central and Hills	1,474	1,122	Bendigo	717	992
Indigenous	84	97	Indigenous	25	86
Non-Indigenous	1,234	895	Non-Indigenous	631	806
Not stated	156	130	Not stated	61	100
Adelaide – North	3,242	4,819	Brisbane – East	835	676
Indigenous	120	369	Indigenous	41	41
Non-Indigenous	3,032	4,146	Non-Indigenous	769	594
Not stated	90	304	Not stated	25	41
Adelaide – South	1,460	1,769	Brisbane – North	1,161	1,194
Indigenous	124	161	Indigenous	81	148
Non-Indigenous	1,230	1,373	Non-Indigenous	1,013	984
Not stated	106	235	Not stated	67	62
Adelaide – West	1,599	1,686	Brisbane – South	2,858	2,515
Indigenous	118	195	Indigenous	68	145
Non-Indigenous	1,359	1,336	Non-Indigenous	2,617	2,157
Not stated	122	155	Not stated	173	213
Australian Capital Territory	2,273	2,792	Brisbane – West	503	377
Indigenous	105	142	Indigenous	6	14
Non-Indigenous	1,878	2,298	Non-Indigenous	471	350
Not stated	290	352	Not stated	26	13
Ballarat	716	989	Brisbane Inner City	3,656	2,071
Indigenous	34	59	Indigenous	117	180
Non-Indigenous	567	802	Non-Indigenous	2,718	1,482
Not stated	115	128	Not stated	821	409
Barossa – Yorke – Mid North	387	552	Bunbury	933	1,136
Indigenous	3	51	Indigenous	115	131
Non-Indigenous	348	459	Non-Indigenous	794	954
Not stated	36	42	Not stated	24	51

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Cairns	3,931	4,002
Indigenous	1,857	1,823
Non-Indigenous	1,815	1,996
Not stated	259	183
Capital Region	1,240	1,283
Indigenous	99	174
Non-Indigenous	1,091	1,020
Not stated	50	89
Central Coast	1,707	1,379
Indigenous	163	182
Non-Indigenous	1,385	1,027
Not stated	159	170
Central Queensland	1,771	1,796
Indigenous	268	414
Non-Indigenous	1,375	1,268
Not stated	128	114
Central West	815	1,065
Indigenous	160	202
Non-Indigenous	592	797
Not stated	63	66
Coffs Harbour – Grafton	1,445	1,195
Indigenous	203	155
Non-Indigenous	1,159	944
Not stated	83	96
Darling Downs – Maranoa	754	928
Indigenous	68	244
Non-Indigenous	656	661
Not stated	30	23
Darwin	2,766	2,619
Indigenous	927	1,261
Non-Indigenous	1,680	1,040
Not stated	159	318

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Far West and Orana	1,043	1,065
Indigenous	415	368
Non-Indigenous	588	640
Not stated	40	57
Geelong	1,322	2,287
Indigenous	41	77
Non-Indigenous	1,180	1,870
Not stated	101	340
Gold Coast	3,122	3,149
Indigenous	91	154
Non-Indigenous	2,848	2,849
Not stated	183	146
Hobart	1,201	1,970
Indigenous	57	108
Non-Indigenous	1,056	1,725
Not stated	88	137
Hume	861	1,060
Indigenous	43	60
Non-Indigenous	761	884
Not stated	57	116
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	1,262	1,483
Indigenous	156	273
Non-Indigenous	1,056	1,150
Not stated	50	60
Illawarra	1,685	1,640
Indigenous	190	193
Non-Indigenous	1,348	1,292
Not stated	147	155
Ipswich	2,751	3,508
Indigenous	155	405
Non-Indigenous	2,518	3,036
Not stated	78	67

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Latrobe – Gippsland	1,160	1,680
Indigenous	67	173
Non-Indigenous	963	1,323
Not stated	130	184
Launceston and North East	584	984
Indigenous	30	41
Non-Indigenous	534	869
Not stated	20	74
Logan – Beaudesert	3,032	3,971
Indigenous	107	347
Non-Indigenous	2,847	3,473
Not stated	78	151
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	1,247	1,265
Indigenous	99	179
Non-Indigenous	1,072	999
Not stated	76	87
Mandurah	450	475
Indigenous	50	62
Non-Indigenous	382	355
Not stated	18	58
Melbourne – Inner	7,175	4,999
Indigenous	123	169
Non-Indigenous	5,872	3,599
Not stated	1,180	1,231
Melbourne – Inner East	1,883	1,810
Indigenous	3	19
Non-Indigenous	1,729	1,422
Not stated	151	369
Melbourne – Inner South	1,692	1,783
Indigenous	16	29
Non-Indigenous	1,410	1,500
Not stated	266	254

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Melbourne – North East	3,407	3,906
Indigenous	74	101
Non-Indigenous	3,084	3,424
Not stated	249	381
Melbourne – North West	3,691	3,638
Indigenous	24	31
Non-Indigenous	3,533	3,426
Not stated	134	181
Melbourne – Outer East	2,238	2,385
Indigenous	53	81
Non-Indigenous	2,013	2,030
Not stated	172	274
Melbourne – South East	9,479	11,612
Indigenous	56	95
Non-Indigenous	8,969	10,327
Not stated	454	1,190
Melbourne – West	8,288	9,125
Indigenous	89	46
Non-Indigenous	7,758	8,498
Not stated	441	581
Mid North Coast	1,527	1,738
Indigenous	325	419
Non-Indigenous	1,147	1,192
Not stated	55	127
Moreton Bay – North	1,679	1,967
Indigenous	89	230
Non-Indigenous	1,504	1,664
Not stated	86	73
Moreton Bay – South	697	873
Indigenous	56	94
Non-Indigenous	620	760
Not stated	21	19

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Mornington Peninsula	1,461	1,687
Indigenous	50	42
Non-Indigenous	1,203	1,211
Not stated	208	434
Murray	428	599
Indigenous	51	54
Non-Indigenous	359	479
Not stated	18	66
New England and North West	1,292	1,128
Indigenous	333	325
Non-Indigenous	887	669
Not stated	72	134
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	1,938	2,085
Indigenous	215	244
Non-Indigenous	1,585	1,569
Not stated	138	272
North West	835	1,487
Indigenous	61	105
Non-Indigenous	692	1,275
Not stated	82	107
Northern Territory – Outback	16,563	15,872
Indigenous	15,593	14,651
Non-Indigenous	752	830
Not stated	218	391
Other Territories	60	26
Indigenous	37	3
Non-Indigenous	20	23
Not stated	3	-
Perth – Inner	1,181	1,163
Indigenous	154	234
Non-Indigenous	897	706
Not stated	130	223

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Perth – North East	1,410	1,802
Indigenous	123	523
Non-Indigenous	1,244	1,135
Not stated	43	144
Perth – North West	2,145	1,980
Indigenous	107	274
Non-Indigenous	2,003	1,641
Not stated	35	65
Perth – South East	2,969	2,664
Indigenous	222	376
Non-Indigenous	2,683	2,185
Not stated	64	103
Perth – South West	1,606	1,519
Indigenous	136	232
Non-Indigenous	1,349	1,194
Not stated	121	93
Queensland – Outback	3,432	3,111
Indigenous	2,564	2,386
Non-Indigenous	779	613
Not stated	89	112
Richmond – Tweed	2,321	2,387
Indigenous	256	330
Non-Indigenous	1,855	1,857
Not stated	210	200
Riverina	749	1,187
Indigenous	55	150
Non-Indigenous	673	942
Not stated	21	95
Shepparton	1,097	1,323
Indigenous	80	86
Non-Indigenous	938	1,152
Not stated	79	85

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
South Australia – Outback	1,194	1,364
Indigenous	788	904
Non-Indigenous	351	385
Not stated	55	75
South Australia – South East	1,054	1,158
Indigenous	36	106
Non-Indigenous	941	919
Not stated	77	133
South East	189	239
Indigenous	12	17
Non-Indigenous	177	211
Not stated	-	11
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	793	910
Indigenous	97	158
Non-Indigenous	639	638
Not stated	57	114
Sunshine Coast	1,925	2,155
Indigenous	75	114
Non-Indigenous	1,746	1,822
Not stated	104	219
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	930	819
Indigenous	17	16
Non-Indigenous	913	790
Not stated	-	13
Sydney – Blacktown	3,955	3,623
Indigenous	147	129
Non-Indigenous	3,702	3,314
Not stated	106	180
Sydney – City and Inner South	9,801	6,935
Indigenous	213	191
Non-Indigenous	8,328	5,684
Not stated	1,260	1,060

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney – Eastern Suburbs	2,214	1,917
Indigenous	33	55
Non-Indigenous	1,840	1,497
Not stated	341	365
Sydney – Inner South West	9,316	8,776
Indigenous	41	55
Non-Indigenous	9,110	8,445
Not stated	165	276
Sydney – Inner West	4,318	3,985
Indigenous	50	61
Non-Indigenous	4,011	3,480
Not stated	257	444
Sydney – North Sydney and Hornsby	1,586	1,260
Indigenous	-	5
Non-Indigenous	1,454	1,155
Not stated	132	100
Sydney – Northern Beaches	1,063	882
Indigenous	14	-
Non-Indigenous	965	847
Not stated	84	35
Sydney – Outer South West	2,056	2,157
Indigenous	150	129
Non-Indigenous	1,731	1,922
Not stated	175	106
Sydney – Outer West and Blue Mountains	2,007	1,934
Indigenous	179	198
Non-Indigenous	1,682	1,566
Not stated	146	170
Sydney - Parramatta	9,845	8,027
Indigenous	45	65
Non-Indigenous	9,560	7,700
Not stated	240	262

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney – Ryde	983	739
Indigenous	–	4
Non-Indigenous	969	704
Not stated	14	31
Sydney – South West	7,500	6,893
Indigenous	101	86
Non-Indigenous	7,187	6,587
Not stated	212	220
Sydney – Sutherland	583	444
Indigenous	21	12
Non-Indigenous	524	404
Not stated	38	28
Toowoomba	885	1,397
Indigenous	111	174
Non-Indigenous	727	1,125
Not stated	47	98
Townsville	2,250	2,161
Indigenous	1,040	936
Non-Indigenous	1,020	1,072
Not stated	190	153
Warrnambool and South West	456	757
Indigenous	3	36
Non-Indigenous	391	665
Not stated	62	56
West and North West	510	790
Indigenous	63	129
Non-Indigenous	432	602
Not stated	15	59

	2016	2021
SA4/Indigenous Status	Homeless count	Homeless count
Western Australia – Outback (North)	3,221	2,937
Indigenous	2,273	2,214
Non-Indigenous	846	607
Not stated	102	116
Western Australia – Outback (South)	1,594	1,783
Indigenous	764	969
Non-Indigenous	769	721
Not stated	61	93
Western Australia – Wheat Belt	912	914
Indigenous	133	150
Non-Indigenous	757	732
Not stated	22	32
Wide Bay	2,928	3,491
Indigenous	404	491
Non-Indigenous	2,432	2,768
Not stated	92	232
Grand Total	211,274	213,797

5.3. Homelessness count, by Statistical Area 4 and age group

Table 28. Aggregated homelessness and marginally-housed persons count by SA4 and age group

Statistical Area 4/Age Group	2016 Homeless count	2021 Homeless count
Adelaide – Central and Hills	1,330	974
Elder	160	71
Mid Age	600	401
Young	570	502
Adelaide – North	3,069	4,671
Elder	129	196
Mid Age	997	1,380
Young	1,943	3,095
Adelaide – South	1,346	1,594
Elder	99	148
Mid Age	494	519
Young	753	927
Adelaide – West	1,494	1,538
Elder	75	76
Mid Age	530	508
Young	889	954
Australian Capital Territory	2,098	2,585
Elder	119	124
Mid Age	924	1,000
Young	1,055	1,461
Ballarat	621	860
Elder	60	48
Mid Age	238	302
Young	323	510
Barossa – Yorke – Mid North	255	442
Elder	58	55
Mid Age	111	155
Young	86	232
Bendigo	622	916
Elder	65	92
Mid Age	198	290
Young	359	534
Brisbane – East	743	523
Elder	101	66
Mid Age	275	194
Young	367	263
Brisbane – North	1,039	1,105
Elder	119	175
Mid Age	405	395
Young	515	535
Brisbane – South	2,619	2,266
Elder	194	208
Mid Age	926	772
Young	1,499	1,286
Brisbane – West	412	281
Elder	14	23
Mid Age	97	75
Young	301	183
Brisbane Inner City	3,573	1,869
Elder	451	240
Mid Age	1,728	1,065
Young	1,394	564
Bunbury	777	989
Elder	120	146
Mid Age	294	428
Young	363	415

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Cairns	3,610	3,670
Elder	387	477
Mid Age	1,368	1,236
Young	1,855	1,957
Capital Region	1,013	1,020
Elder	126	115
Mid Age	474	357
Young	413	548
Central Coast	1,564	1,258
Elder	211	168
Mid Age	655	437
Young	698	653
Central Queensland	1,617	1,597
Elder	388	297
Mid Age	633	546
Young	596	754
Central West	644	838
Elder	105	96
Mid Age	194	264
Young	345	478
Coffs Harbour – Grafton	1,309	1,083
Elder	251	200
Mid Age	482	457
Young	576	426
Darling Downs – Maranoa	611	695
Elder	146	113
Mid Age	221	237
Young	244	345
Darwin	2,524	2,356
Elder	243	298
Mid Age	1,233	1,147
Young	1,048	911

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Far West and Orana	878	883
Elder	181	237
Mid Age	289	292
Young	408	354
Geelong	1,248	2,177
Elder	142	135
Mid Age	400	567
Young	706	1,475
Gold Coast	2,870	2,795
Elder	530	469
Mid Age	1,111	1,137
Young	1,229	1,189
Hobart	938	1,782
Elder	49	103
Mid Age	388	654
Young	501	1,025
Hume	809	938
Elder	121	118
Mid Age	287	285
Young	401	535
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	1,086	1,370
Elder	214	148
Mid Age	420	506
Young	452	716
Illawarra	1,601	1,480
Elder	220	143
Mid Age	557	517
Young	824	820
Ipswich	2,525	3,311
Elder	229	272
Mid Age	877	989
Young	1,419	2,050

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Latrobe – Gippsland	958	1,479
Elder	160	186
Mid Age	353	500
Young	445	793
Launceston and North East	484	875
Elder	65	152
Mid Age	164	237
Young	255	486
Logan – Beaudesert	2,797	3,757
Elder	180	314
Mid Age	841	1,088
Young	1,776	2,355
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	1,093	1,052
Elder	245	229
Mid Age	447	399
Young	401	424
Mandurah	418	393
Elder	80	59
Mid Age	160	152
Young	178	182
Melbourne – Inner	7,084	4,777
Elder	451	505
Mid Age	2,763	2,326
Young	3,870	1,946
Melbourne – Inner East	1,830	1,657
Elder	106	81
Mid Age	609	654
Young	1,115	922
Melbourne - Inner South	1,571	1,636
Elder	142	131
Mid Age	529	616
Young	900	889

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Melbourne – North East	3,203	3,752
Elder	154	219
Mid Age	1,113	1,271
Young	1,936	2,262
Melbourne – North West	3,619	3,480
Elder	188	220
Mid Age	1,037	1,036
Young	2,394	2,224
Melbourne – Outer East	2,083	2,201
Elder	145	205
Mid Age	792	879
Young	1,146	1,117
Melbourne – South East	9,276	11,403
Elder	532	708
Mid Age	3,154	3,868
Young	5,590	6,827
Melbourne – West	8,082	8,933
Elder	355	484
Mid Age	2,529	2,827
Young	5,198	5,622
Mid North Coast	1,277	1,446
Elder	298	285
Mid Age	503	447
Young	476	714
Moreton Bay – North	1,523	1,803
Elder	192	210
Mid Age	545	631
Young	786	962
Moreton Bay – South	635	832
Elder	99	127
Mid Age	201	265
Young	335	440

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Mornington Peninsula	1,395	1,619
Elder	273	260
Mid Age	609	674
Young	513	685
Murray	299	426
Elder	74	50
Mid Age	112	150
Young	113	226
New England and North West	1,058	834
Elder	127	95
Mid Age	349	215
Young	582	524
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	1,836	1,915
Elder	215	163
Mid Age	767	745
Young	854	1,007
North West	694	1,377
Elder	88	158
Mid Age	272	572
Young	334	647
Northern Territory – Outback	16,321	15,633
Elder	1,024	1,084
Mid Age	5,238	5,271
Young	10,059	9,278
Perth – Inner	1,138	1,076
Elder	113	217
Mid Age	566	597
Young	459	262
Perth – North East	1,289	1,705
Elder	82	198
Mid Age	470	716
Young	737	791

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Perth – North West	2,062	1,873
Elder	125	162
Mid Age	665	674
Young	1,272	1,037
Perth – South East	2,804	2,295
Elder	176	139
Mid Age	1,036	818
Young	1,592	1,338
Perth – South West	1,381	1,277
Elder	179	147
Mid Age	563	530
Young	639	600
Queensland – Outback	3,265	2,955
Elder	312	246
Mid Age	1,027	922
Young	1,926	1,787
Richmond – Tweed	2,088	2,164
Elder	495	431
Mid Age	951	967
Young	642	766
Riverina	669	1,060
Elder	75	55
Mid Age	240	418
Young	354	587
Shepparton	992	1,159
Elder	121	115
Mid Age	352	446
Young	519	598
South Australia – Outback	1,085	1,237
Elder	107	131
Mid Age	393	468
Young	585	638

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
South Australia - South East	955	959
Elder	106	119
Mid Age	438	372
Young	411	468
South East	122	160
Elder	17	16
Mid Age	38	43
Young	67	101
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	697	845
Elder	148	169
Mid Age	232	294
Young	317	382
Sunshine Coast	1,597	1,836
Elder	321	329
Mid Age	687	768
Young	589	739
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	809	760
Elder	86	97
Mid Age	271	255
Young	452	408
Sydney - Blacktown	3,887	3,484
Elder	198	179
Mid Age	1,156	1,010
Young	2,533	2,295
Sydney - City and Inner South	9,634	6,774
Elder	734	720
Mid Age	3,592	3,244
Young	5,308	2,810

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	2,123	1,816
Elder	232	239
Mid Age	675	853
Young	1,216	724
Sydney - Inner South West	9,184	8,648
Elder	500	634
Mid Age	3,076	3,048
Young	5,608	4,966
Sydney - Inner West	4,190	3,857
Elder	419	475
Mid Age	1,362	1,360
Young	2,409	2,022
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	1,545	1,237
Elder	184	202
Mid Age	669	550
Young	692	485
Sydney - Northern Beaches	962	772
Elder	112	85
Mid Age	431	343
Young	419	344
Sydney - Outer South West	1,919	2,027
Elder	106	153
Mid Age	602	582
Young	1,211	1,292
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	1,917	1,809
Elder	170	85
Mid Age	615	583
Young	1,132	1,141

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
Sydney – Parramatta	9,729	7,902
Elder	363	391
Mid Age	3,419	2,832
Young	5,947	4,679
Sydney – Ryde	967	673
Elder	74	60
Mid Age	322	291
Young	571	322
Sydney – South West	7,346	6,820
Elder	657	611
Mid Age	2,535	2,425
Young	4,154	3,784
Sydney – Sutherland	484	400
Elder	81	40
Mid Age	173	151
Young	230	209
Toowoomba	778	1,316
Elder	46	85
Mid Age	260	416
Young	472	815
Townsville	2,032	2,012
Elder	230	253
Mid Age	726	661
Young	1,076	1,098
Warrnambool and South West	374	659
Elder	34	60
Mid Age	130	256
Young	210	343

	2016	2021
Statistical Area 4/Age Group	Homeless count	Homeless count
West and North West	407	736
Elder	48	73
Mid Age	143	258
Young	216	405
Western Australia - Outback (North)	2,943	2,779
Elder	279	238
Mid Age	932	1,006
Young	1,732	1,535
Western Australia - Outback (South)	1,418	1,449
Elder	228	188
Mid Age	532	582
Young	658	679
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	811	760
Elder	133	152
Mid Age	287	317
Young	391	291
Wide Bay	2,717	3,131
Elder	658	686
Mid Age	1,043	1,120
Young	1,016	1,325

5.4. SHS reasons for seeking assistance groupings

Table 29 Reason for seeking SHS assistance nationally

Reason for seeking SHS	Female	Male	Total
Discrimination including racial discrimination	34	35	69
Disengagement with school or other education and training	369	383	752
Domestic and family violence	57,902	15,663	73,565
Employment difficulties	177	221	398
Financial difficulties	15,815	11,908	27,723
Housing affordability stress	10,903	8,222	19,125
Housing crisis	29,714	24,321	54,035
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	15,905	14,490	30,395
Invalid or missing	1,733	1,906	3,639
Itinerant	1,652	2,374	4,026
Lack of family and/or community support	2,040	1,504	3,544
Medical issues	1,066	976	2,042
Mental health issues	2,015	1,616	3,631
Non-family violence	922	438	1,360
Other	7,733	6,628	14,361
Previous accommodation ended	6,015	5,456	11,471
Problematic alcohol use	163	325	488
Problematic drug or substance use	395	591	986
Problematic gambling	17	29	46
Relationship/family breakdown	6,658	4,508	11,166
Sexual abuse	449	64	513
Time out from family/other situation	2,011	1,307	3,318
Transition from custodial arrangements	1,108	5,013	6,121
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	240	190	430
Transition from other care arrangements	361	417	778
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	447	356	803
Unemployment	227	344	571
Grand Total	166,071	109,285	275,356

Table 30. Reason for seeking SHS assistance by state

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
ACT	2194	1617	3811
Discrimination including racial discrimination			
Disengagement with school or other education and training	1		1
Domestic and family violence	458	167	625
Employment difficulties	1	3	4
Financial difficulties	118	69	187
Housing affordability stress	225	141	366
Housing crisis	342	360	702
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	345	307	652
Invalid or missing	8	6	14
Itinerant	4	4	8
Lack of family and/or community support	48	20	68
Medical issues	8	13	21
Mental health issues	48	25	73
Non-family violence	10	6	16
Other	83	133	216
Previous accommodation ended	197	166	363
Problematic alcohol use	4	5	9
Problematic drug or substance use	25	3	28
Problematic gambling	1		1
Relationship/family breakdown	168	91	259
Sexual abuse	1		1
Time out from family/other situation	51	28	79
Transition from custodial arrangements	18	36	54
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	2	2	4
Transition from other care arrangements	9	17	26
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	15	7	22
Unemployment	4	8	12

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
NSW	40957	27516	68473
Discrimination including racial discrimination	10	12	22
Disengagement with school or other education and training	261	230	491
Domestic and family violence	12,139	3,940	16,079
Employment difficulties	60	58	118
Financial difficulties	3,732	2,772	6,504
Housing affordability stress	3,117	2,358	5,475
Housing crisis	8,738	6,958	15,696
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	3,273	2,881	6,154
Invalid or missing	317	311	628
Itinerant	397	813	1210
Lack of family and/or community support	572	382	954
Medical issues	120	133	253
Mental health issues	796	511	1307
Non-family violence	219	89	308
Other	1,647	1417	3,064
Previous accommodation ended	1,467	1,190	2,657
Problematic alcohol use	47	85	132
Problematic drug or substance use	171	243	414
Problematic gambling	3	16	19
Relationship/family breakdown	2,739	1,813	4,552
Sexual abuse	90	17	107
Time out from family/other situation	438	285	723
Transition from custodial arrangements	274	633	907
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	45	38	83
Transition from other care arrangements	96	109	205
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	130	118	248
Unemployment	59	104	163

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
NT	6438	3658	10096
Discrimination including racial discrimination	2		2
Disengagement with school or other education and training	21	10	31
Domestic and family violence	2,922	770	3,692
Employment difficulties	5	8	13
Financial difficulties	130	105	235
Housing affordability stress	266	208	474
Housing crisis	299	194	493
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	563	437	1,000
Invalid or missing	855	1,099	1,954
Itinerant	49	51	100
Lack of family and/or community support	162	60	222
Medical issues	55	38	93
Mental health issues	22	27	49
Non-family violence	65	24	89
Other	345	156	501
Previous accommodation ended	92	126	218
Problematic alcohol use	38	25	63
Problematic drug or substance use	22	9	31
Problematic gambling			
Relationship/family breakdown	93	47	140
Sexual abuse	73	7	80
Time out from family/other situation	244	79	323
Transition from custodial arrangements	31	94	125
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	39	24	63
Transition from other care arrangements	17	16	33
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	10	6	16
Unemployment	18	38	56

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
QLD	24540	17047	41587
Discrimination including racial discrimination	5	4	9
Disengagement with school or other education and training	8	15	23
Domestic and family violence	5,867	1,848	7,715
Employment difficulties	19	17	36
Financial difficulties	2,856	2,327	5,183
Housing affordability stress	1,921	1,528	3,449
Housing crisis	5,833	4,374	10,207
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	3,329	2,783	6,112
Invalid or missing	37	25	62
Itinerant	152	186	338
Lack of family and/or community support	414	433	847
Medical issues	107	99	206
Mental health issues	209	192	401
Non-family violence	128	51	179
Other	1,174	924	2,098
Previous accommodation ended	1,033	828	1,861
Problematic alcohol use	15	42	57
Problematic drug or substance use	43	77	120
Problematic gambling		3	3
Relationship/family breakdown	816	571	1,387
Sexual abuse	31	3	34
Time out from family/other situation	312	177	489
Transition from custodial arrangements	64	363	427
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	39	33	72
Transition from other care arrangements	46	53	99
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	57	35	92
Unemployment	25	56	81

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
SA	10822	7208	18030
Discrimination including racial discrimination			
Disengagement with school or other education and training	15	11	26
Domestic and family violence	3,037	676	3,713
Employment difficulties	2	2	4
Financial difficulties	69	46	115
Housing affordability stress	411	331	742
Housing crisis	4,570	3,662	8232
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	1213	1,051	2,264
Invalid or missing	2	1	3
Itinerant	289	286	575
Lack of family and/or community support	20	7	27
Medical issues	21	35	56
Mental health issues	59	50	109
Non-family violence	22	7	29
Other	100	78	178
Previous accommodation ended	385	307	692
Problematic alcohol use	4	13	17
Problematic drug or substance use	6	4	10
Problematic gambling		1	1
Relationship/family breakdown	319	146	465
Sexual abuse	84	9	93
Time out from family/other situation	23	19	42
Transition from custodial arrangements	78	379	457
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	9	10	19
Transition from other care arrangements	12	14	26
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	68	51	119
Unemployment	4	12	16

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
TAS	3976	3001	6977
Discrimination including racial discrimination	1	1	2
Disengagement with school or other education and training	1		1
Domestic and family violence	630	201	831
Employment difficulties	1	5	6
Financial difficulties	68	78	146
Housing affordability stress	401	262	663
Housing crisis	962	656	1,618
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	526	492	1,018
Invalid or missing	17	26	43
Itinerant	78	77	155
Lack of family and/or community support	62	42	104
Medical issues	40	44	84
Mental health issues	88	98	186
Non-family violence	89	31	120
Other	176	128	304
Previous accommodation ended	344	325	669
Problematic alcohol use	6	21	27
Problematic drug or substance use	7	8	15
Problematic gambling		1	1
Relationship/family breakdown	311	230	541
Sexual abuse	16	1	17
Time out from family/other situation	73	74	147
Transition from custodial arrangements	32	125	157
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	5	10	15
Transition from other care arrangements	23	36	59
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	17	28	45
Unemployment	2	1	3

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
VIC	61206	40469	101675
Discrimination including racial discrimination	12	9	21
Disengagement with school or other education and training	40	35	75
Domestic and family violence	26,808	6,602	33,410
Employment difficulties	83	121	204
Financial difficulties	6,885	5,021	11,906
Housing affordability stress	4,034	3,015	7,049
Housing crisis	7,636	7,343	14,979
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	5,334	5,408	10,742
Invalid or missing	442	407	849
Itinerant	375	609	984
Lack of family and/or community support	539	450	989
Medical issues	308	328	636
Mental health issues	617	578	1195
Non-family violence	315	210	525
Other	2,453	2,485	4,938
Previous accommodation ended	1,988	2,149	4,137
Problematic alcohol use	25	82	107
Problematic drug or substance use	94	201	295
Problematic gambling	9	8	17
Relationship/family breakdown	1,653	1,322	2,975
Sexual abuse	114	24	138
Time out from family/other situation	449	391	840
Transition from custodial arrangements	562	3,259	3,821
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	87	64	151
Transition from other care arrangements	131	144	275
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	112	95	207
Unemployment	101	109	210

Reason for seeking assistance by state	Female	Male	Total
WA	15938	8769	24707
Discrimination including racial discrimination	4	9	13
Disengagement with school or other education and training	22	82	104
Domestic and family violence	6,041	1,459	7,500
Employment difficulties	6	7	13
Financial difficulties	1,957	1,490	3,447
Housing affordability stress	528	379	907
Housing crisis	1,334	774	2,108
Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions	1,322	1,131	2,453
Invalid or missing	55	31	86
Itinerant	308	348	656
Lack of family and/or community support	223	110	333
Medical issues	407	286	693
Mental health issues	176	135	311
Non-family violence	74	20	94
Other	1,755	1,307	3,062
Previous accommodation ended	509	365	874
Problematic alcohol use	24	52	76
Problematic drug or substance use	27	46	73
Problematic gambling	4		4
Relationship/family breakdown	559	288	847
Sexual abuse	40	3	43
Time out from family/other situation	421	254	675
Transition from custodial arrangements	49	124	173
Transition from foster care and child safety residential placements	14	9	23
Transition from other care arrangements	27	28	55
Unable to return home due to environmental reasons	38	16	54
Unemployment	14	16	30
Grand Total	166,071	109,285	275,356

Table 31 - SHS use by age groups, gender and Indigenous persons

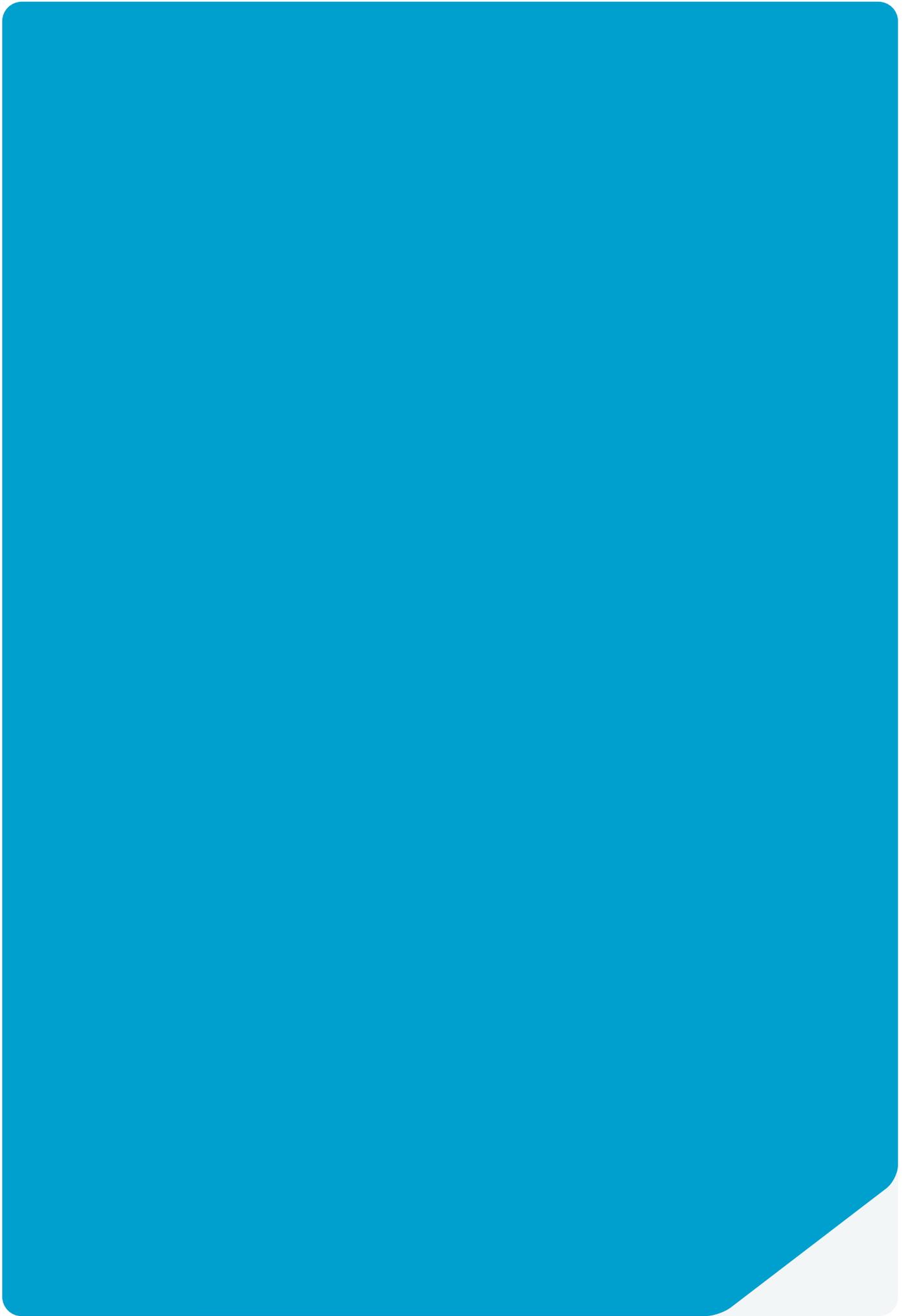
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Grand Total
ACT	736	2982	93	3811
Female	415	1,761	18	2,194
elder	4	71		75
middle	79	579		658
n/a	21	25	18	64
young	311	1,086		1,397
Male	321	1,221	75	1,617
elder	8	71	15	94
middle	88	462	51	601
n/a	21	37	1	59
young	204	651	8	863
NSW	21,373	45,661	1,439	68,473
Female	12,832	27,438	687	40,957
elder	288	1453	41	1782
middle	2,954	8,830	200	11,984
n/a	106	98	14	218
young	9,484	17,057	432	26,973
Male	8,541	18,223	752	27,516
elder	146	1,189	64	1,399
middle	1,887	5,497	292	7,676
n/a	96	131	16	243
young	6,412	11,406	380	18198
NT	7,757	1,223	1,116	10,096
Female	5,227	715	496	6,438
elder	182	18	24	224
middle	1,516	248	278	2,042
n/a	95	36	20	151
young	3,434	413	174	4,021
Male	2,530	508	620	3,658
elder	90	81	54	225
middle	527	141	369	1,037
n/a	39	28	13	80
young	1,874	258	184	2316

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Grand Total
QLD	15,108	24,656	1,823	41,587
Female	9,151	14,264	1,125	24,540
elder	229	685	45	959
middle	2619	4,692	378	7689
n/a	110	116	22	248
young	6,193	8,771	680	15,644
Male	5,957	10,392	698	17,047
elder	169	760	52	981
middle	1,704	3,350	164	5218
n/a	83	107	17	207
young	4,001	6,175	465	10,641
SA	4,487	11,782	1,761	18,030
Female	2,685	7,002	1,135	10,822
elder	42	269	23	334
middle	716	2,336	349	3,401
n/a	93	102	18	213
young	1,834	4,295	745	6,874
Male	1,802	4,780	626	7,208
elder	32	277	13	322
middle	453	1,665	151	2,269
n/a	74	93	30	197
young	1,243	2,745	432	4,420
TAS	1,106	5,764	107	6,977
Female	656	3,265	55	3,976
elder	27	298		325
middle	173	1,063	10	1,246
n/a	27	53	4	84
young	429	1851	41	2,321
Male	450	2,499	52	3,001
elder	16	287	4	307
middle	133	977	19	1,129
n/a	26	61	2	89
young	275	1,174	27	1,476

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Grand Total
VIC	11,168	80,772	9,735	101,675
Female	6,851	48,466	5,889	61,206
elder	239	3,227	432	3,898
middle	2181	19,003	2412	23,596
n/a	98	119	10	227
young	4,333	26,117	3,035	33,485
Male	4,317	32,306	3,846	40,469
elder	131	2,527	241	2,899
middle	1411	12,435	1,480	15,326
n/a	83	144	7	234
young	2,692	17,200	2,118	22,010
WA	12,220	12,351	136	24,707
Female	7,926	7,938	74	15,938
elder	347	642		989
middle	2,621	3,207	9	5,837
n/a	91	65	38	194
young	4,867	4,024	27	8,918
Male	4,294	4,413	62	8,769

Table 32. SHS use by age groupings and state

	Sex	Senior			Middle			Young		
		Sum of 2016-17	Sum of 2021-22	% difference	Sum of 2016-17	Sum of 2021-22	% difference	Sum of 2016-17	Sum of 2021-22	% difference
ACT	Female	102	118	15.76%	1,199	1,142	-4.74%	1,237	870	-29.64%
	Male	129	161	24.68%	817	823	0.78%	933	574	-38.50%
NSW	Female	2,559	2,869	12.11%	19,404	18,351	-5.43%	20,060	19,519	-2.70%
	Male	2,575	2,375	-7.76%	12,412	9,947	-19.86%	16,613	14,951	-10.00%
NT	Female	369	424	14.82%	2,747	3,215	17.03%	2,634	2,648	0.54%
	Male	262	393	49.72%	946	1,245	31.55%	1,933	1,940	0.38%
QLD	Female	1,046	1,636	56.48%	10,634	12,024	13.07%	11,166	10,632	-4.78%
	Male	1,190	1,535	28.99%	7,166	6,747	-5.85%	9,641	8,558	-11.24%
SA	Female	595	618	3.83%	6,576	5,526	-15.97%	5,124	4,465	-12.85%
	Male	470	597	27.04%	3,598	3,060	-14.96%	3,844	3,354	-12.75%
TAS	Female	228	465	103.54%	1,558	1,954	25.44%	2,121	1,473	-30.55%
	Male	276	472	71.09%	1,423	1,452	2.07%	1,912	988	-48.34%
VIC	Female	6,637	6,101	-8.08%	38,953	35,588	-8.64%	22,877	19,290	-15.68%
	Male	4,014	4,675	16.48%	19,154	20,531	7.19%	17,620	15,029	-14.70%
WA	Female	999	1,553	55.38%	8,448	8,702	3.00%	5,786	5,489	-5.14%
	Male	817	1,127	37.87%	3,984	3,523	-11.58%	4,211	3,993	-5.18%
TOTAL	Female	12,536	13,784	9.95%	89,518	86,502	-3.37%	71,004	64,386	-9.32%
	Male	9,733	11,335	16.45%	49,500	47,328	-4.39%	56,708	49,387	-12.91%
		22,270	25119	12.79%	139,018	133,830	-3.73%	127,712	113,773	-10.91%



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