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Specialist homelessness services 2021–22: Northern Territory

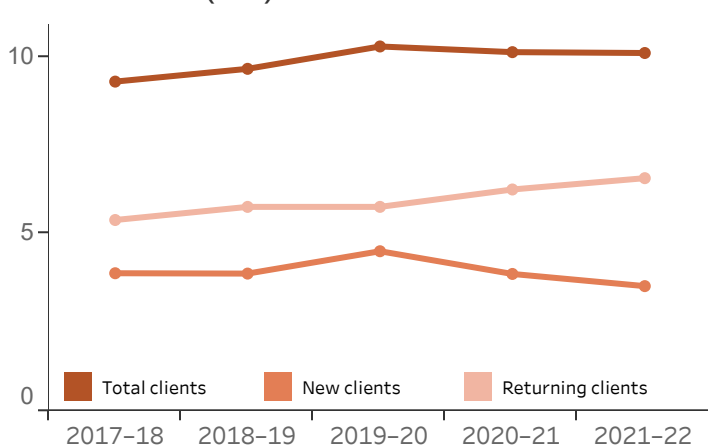
Homelessness can profoundly affect a person's mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Governments across Australia fund a range of specialist services to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Specialist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

How many people were assisted?

In the Northern Territory one in 25 people received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (one in 94). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- family and domestic violence (53%, compared with 37% nationally)
- inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (23%, compared with 26%)
- financial difficulties (16%, compared with 39%).

Figure.1 Trends in NT client numbers
Number of clients ('000)



Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) unpublished data.

Quick facts

- 10,100 clients were assisted in the NT – 4% of the national SHS population (272,700 total clients).

Of NT clients:

- 34% of clients were homeless on first presentation, lower than the national rate (44%).
- Almost 9 in 10 (86%) clients at risk of homelessness were assisted to maintain housing.
- One-quarter (25%) of clients who were homeless were assisted into housing.

Table 1: Northern Territory client characteristics, 2021–22

		NT	Australia
Sex (%)	Male	36	40
	Female	64	60
Indigenous (%)		86	28
Remoteness (%)	Major cities	<1	60
	Inner regional	<1	23
	Outer regional	34	11
	Remote and very remote	66	6
Living arrangements (%)	Living alone	17	32
	One parent with child/ren	27	34
	Couple with child/ren	18	12
	Couple without child/ren	6	5
	Other family or group	33	18
Labour force (%)	Employed	11	15
	Not employed	55	52
	Not in labour force	34	33
Education status (%)	Education/training	21	21
	Not in education/training	79	79
Median length of support (days)		43	53
Median number of nights accommodated		9	32
Proportion receiving accommodation (%)		46	31

Notes:

1. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
2. . . not applicable

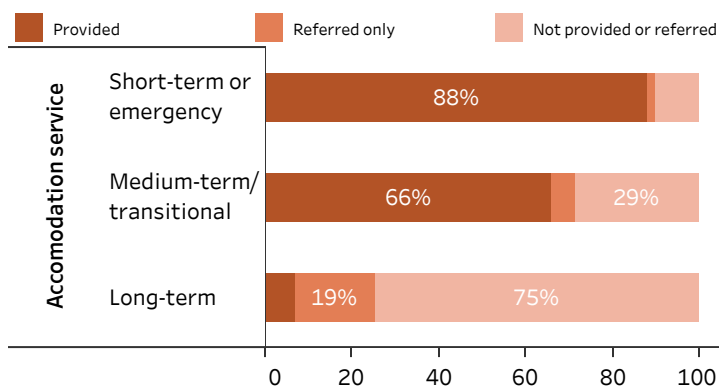
Sources: SHSC supplementary tables 2021–22.

Next

Accommodation services

A smaller proportion of clients in the NT than nationally needed accommodation (55% and 60%, respectively).

Figure 2: NT clients, by most needed accommodation type and service provision status, 2021–22



Source: SHSC 2021–22, supplementary table CLIENTS.24.

Client groups of interest

The overall client rate was lower in the NT in 2021–22 than the previous year, with lower or consistent rates reported for most client groups

Table.2 NT clients per 10,000, by interest groups

	NT		Australia	
	2020–21	2021–22	2020–21	2021–22
All clients	406.6	405.1	108.5	106.2
Indigenous clients	972.0	906.8	810.6	798.7
Young people presenting alone (15–24)	58.8	56.7	16.2	15.3
Older people (55 and over)	32.7	33.9	9.3	9.9
Family and domestic violence	198.9	192.0	45.3	41.9
Clients with disability	7.5	7.7	2.7	2.8
Clients with mental health issues	42.1	38.9	34.4	33.2
Exiting custodial arrangements	8.4	8.5	3.5	3.5
Leaving care	10.8	10.8	2.5	2.3
Children on protection orders	12.3	12.7	3.2	3.1
Problematic drug/alcohol use	29.6	26.4	10.6	9.1

Notes

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

Sources: SHSC historical supplementary tables 2021–22.

Housing outcomes

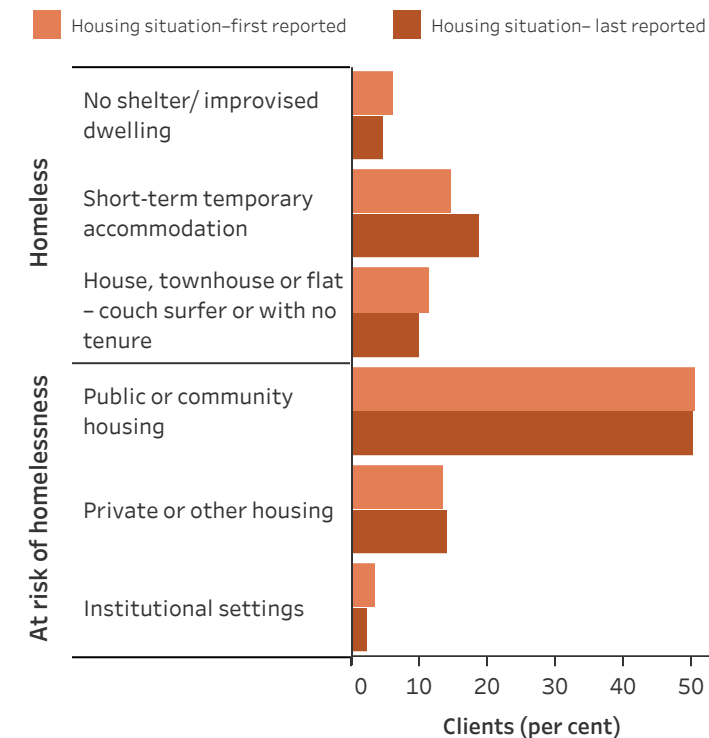
Housing outcomes are described for clients whose support ended in the financial year and detailed information about housing situation was known at the start and end of support.

Of the around 1,400 clients who began support homeless in 2021–22, 25% (360 clients) were assisted into housing. Of these clients, around 210 clients were housed in public or community housing, while around 130 clients were housed in private or other housing.

Of the 3,000 clients who began support housed but at risk of homelessness in 2021–22, almost nine out of ten (86% or 2,600) were assisted to maintain housing. Of these clients at risk:

- almost 9 in 10 (86% or 1,900) of those in public or community housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 44 were assisted into private or other housing.
- just under three-quarters (73% or 435) of those in private or other housing were assisted to remain in their tenancy and a further 66 were assisted into public or community housing.

Figure 3: NT clients, by housing situation at beginning and end of support, 2021–22



Source: SHSC 2021–22 supplementary table CLIENTS.32.

More information

More information on the NT and national SHS data is available from [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021–22](#).