17 Homelessness services

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| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an ‘A’ prefix (for example, in this chapter, table 17A.1). As the data are directly sourced from the 2013 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2013 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to ‘2013 Report, p. 17.1’ this is page 1 of chapter 17 of the 2013 Report, and ‘2013 Report, table 17A.1’ is attachment table 1 of attachment 17A of the 2013 Report. A list of attachment tables referred to in the Compendium is provided at the end of this chapter, and the full attachment tables are available from the Review website at www.pc.gov.au/gsp. |
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The Homelessness services chapter (chapter 17) in the *Report on Government Services 2013* (2013 Report) reports on the Homelessness services in each Australian State and Territory. Data are reported for Indigenous Australians for a subset of the performance indicators reported in that chapter — those data are compiled and presented here.

Homelessness has multiple causes. Some of the social and personal factors associated with homelessness include a shortage of affordable housing, family and relationship breakdown, unemployment and financial hardship, mental health problems, and drug and alcohol abuse (COAG Reform Council 2010).

Australian, State and Territory governments fund services to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Between 1985 and 2009, the Australian Government and State and Territory governments funded the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) to alleviate the difficulties of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and reduce the potential for their recurrence. SAAP services provided assistance to individuals and families who were in crisis or experienced difficulties that hindered personal or family functioning. The SAAP concluded on 31 December 2008 at the expiry of the SAAP V Multilateral Agreement.

The National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) commenced on 1 January 2009 as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. To support the NAHA, the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) commenced on 1 July 2009. Government funding for specialist homelessness services is provided through the NAHA and NPAH.

The NAHA and NPAH provide the framework for Australian Government and State and Territory governments to reduce homelessness and improve housing outcomes for Australians. Under the NAHA, governments have committed to undertake reforms in the housing sector to improve integration between homelessness services and mainstream services, and reduce the rate of homelessness.

Under the NAHA, and the NPAH in particular, Australian, State and Territory governments agreed to a number of outcomes relating to homelessness, including that:

* fewer people will become homeless and fewer of these will sleep rough
* fewer people will become homeless more than once
* people at risk of or experiencing homelessness will maintain or improve connections with their families and communities, and maintain or improve their education, training or employment participation
* people at risk of or experiencing homelessness will be supported by quality services, with improved access to sustainable housing.

The NPAH contributes to achieving the NAHA homelessness outcomes and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Australian Government and State and Territory governments to reduce and prevent homelessness.

This chapter presents data on government-funded specialist homelessness services and the people accessing these services. Homelessness services that do not receive government funding are excluded from this Report.

Previous editions of this Report have included data from the SAAP collection. Although the SAAP concluded on 31 December 2008, the SAAP data collection continued until 30 June 2011 to enable reporting on homelessness services while a new Specialist Homelessness Services collection was developed. For completeness of time series, attachment tables 17A.30–59 of this Report present the final year of data sourced from the SAAP National Data Collection (NDC) (2010-11).

A performance indicator framework for specialist homelessness services, based on the new Specialist Homelessness Services collection (SHSC), is included for the first time in this Report (2013 Report, section 17.2) and data for the new collection for 2011‑12 year are in this chapter and attachment 2013 Report, tables 17A.1–29.

**Indigenous data in the Homelessness services chapter**

The Homelessness services chapter in the 2013 Report and its corresponding attachment tables contain the following data items on Indigenous Australians:

#### 2011-12 (SHSC)

* proportion of Indigenous clients among all clients whose needs for accommodation and services other than accommodation were met
* proportion of Indigenous people represented in specialist homelessness services and in the community
* proportion of Indigenous clients with a case management plan
* support needs of Indigenous clients, provided and referred by agencies
* proportion of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing and who obtained or maintained independent housing after support
* proportion of Indigenous clients who needed employment and/or training assistance who were employed after support, by labour force status
* proportion of Indigenous clients experiencing homelessness who had repeat periods of homelessness
* proportion of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance and who had an income source after support

#### 2010-11 (SAAP)

* proportion of Indigenous people among all accommodated clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet
* closed support periods, by the existence of a support plan, Indigenous clients
* support needs of Indigenous clients, met and unmet
* closed support periods in which Indigenous clients needed assistance to obtain/maintain independent housing, by type of tenure
* closed support periods, by labour force status of Indigenous clients who needed employment and training assistance, before and after support
* Indigenous clients who exited from the service and who returned to agencies before the end of that year
* proportion of clients who more than once had a housing/accommodation need identified by an agency worker, by Indigenous status
* source of income immediately before and after support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit.

**Profile of homelessness services**

*Services to assist people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless*

Specialist homelessness services aim to provide support to people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless as a result of a crisis, including women and children escaping domestic violence.

The SAAP was the main governmental response to homelessness between 1985 and 2009. It provided emergency accommodation as well as support services to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Some of the main developments of this program that have influenced the current service environment include:

* expansion of target groups and increasing specialisation of services
* the provision of non-accommodation support services
* responding to the individual needs of clients. This was associated with an emphasis on case management, a form of service delivery that involves an assessment process to identify the specific needs of clients and to connect them with appropriate services. (AIHW 2011).

Government and non-government service providers (including community organisations) deliver a variety of homelessness services to clients, including supported accommodation, counselling, advocacy, links to housing, health, education and employment services, outreach support, brokerage and meals services, and financial and employment assistance.

*Homelessness services and the link with other services*

Close links exist between homelessness services and other forms of housing assistance reported in the Housing chapter of this Report (chapter 16). Some individuals and families used both homelessness and housing services, as people can move from homelessness to social housing, or might be in receipt of homelessness services and accommodated in social housing.[[1]](#footnote-1). The Housing and homelessness sector overview provides some information on the interconnections between these services.

**Framework of performance indicators for government funded specialist homelessness services**

The Homelessness services performance indicator framework outlined in figure 17.1 identifies the principal homelessness services activity areas considered in the 2013 Report. Data for Indigenous Australians are reported for a subset of the performance indicators and are presented here. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework. The framework shows which data are comparable. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

Indicator boxes presented throughout the chapter provide information about the reported indicators. As these are sourced directly from the 2013 Report, they may include references to data not reported for Indigenous Australians and therefore not included in this Compendium.

The performance indicator framework for government funded specialist homelessness services is based on shared government objectives for homelessness services delivered under the NAHA (box 17.1).

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| Box 17.1 **Objectives for government funded specialist homelessness services (SAAP)** |
| The overall aim of specialist homelessness services is to provide transitional supported accommodation and a range of related support services, to help people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence. Within this aim, the goals are to:   * resolve crises * re-establish family links where appropriate * re-establish the capacity of clients to live independently * provide homelessness services in an equitable and efficient manner. |
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COAG has agreed six National Agreements to enhance accountability to the public for the outcomes achieved or outputs delivered by a range of government services (see 2013 Report, chapter 1 for more detail on reforms to federal financial relations). The NAHA covers the area of housing and homelessness and includes performance indicators for which the Steering Committee collates performance information for analysis by the COAG Reform Council (CRC). Performance indicators reported in this chapter are aligned with homelessness performance indicators in the NAHA.

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of government funded specialist homelessness services (figure 17.1). The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2013 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (see 2013 Report, section 1.6).

The Report’s statistical appendix contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (including Indigenous and ethnic status) (appendix A).

A performance indicator framework based on the SHSC is presented in figure 17.1. The key changes from the SAAP-based framework (2013 Report, figure 17.24) are:

* the introduction of a new indicator ‘Repeat periods of homelessness’ in the framework’s ‘Outcomes’ domain
* the consolidation of indicators for special needs groups — Indigenous Australians and people from a non-English speaking background (NESB) as performance measures under a single indicator ‘Access of special needs groups to homelessness services’.

Although some indicator names remain the same, many supporting measures have been revised. While there is broad consistency in the aspects of homelessness covered in the two collections, differences in the construction of the measures mean that data are not directly comparable between the two collections.

Figure 17.1 **Government funded specialist homelessness services performance indicator framework**

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| Figure 17.1 Government funded specialist homelessness services performance indicator framework   More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

*Source*: 2013 Report, figure 17.2, p. 17.8.

*Equity — access*

Equity and access indicators are indicators of governments’ objective to ensure that all clients have fair and equitable access to services on the basis of relative need and available resources.

##### Access of special needs groups to homelessness services

‘Access of special needs groups to homelessness services’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure all Australians have equitable access to accommodation services on the basis of relative need (box 17.2).

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| Box 17.2 **Access of Indigenous people to homelessness services** |
| ‘Access of special needs groups to homelessness services’ is the comparison between the representation of Indigenous people among all people whose needs for accommodation and other services were met, and the representation of these groups in the community.  This indicator is defined by three measures:   * the number of Indigenous clients whose demand for accommodation was met divided by the total number of clients whose demand for accommodation was met * the number of Indigenous clients whose demand for services other than accommodation was met divided by the total number of clients whose demand for services other than accommodation was met * the representation of Indigenous clients in specialist homelessness services compared with their representation in the community.   Use by special needs groups is a proxy indicator of equitable access. In general, usage rates for special needs groups similar or higher to those for the broader service population are desirable. Several factors need to be considered in interpreting the results for this set of measures. In particular, cultural differences can influence the extent to which Indigenous people use different types of services  Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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*Access of Indigenous people to homelessness services*

Nationally, Indigenous people had a higher representation amongst all people accessing specialist homelessness services (22.4 per cent) than their representation in the community (3.0 per cent) (table 17.1).

Nationally, Indigenous people made up 25.5 per cent of all clients whose request for accommodation resulted in accommodation assistance, and 19.5 per cent of all clients whose request for services other than accommodation resulted in assistance in 2011-12. These results varied across jurisdictions (figure 17.2).

Figure 17.2 Proportion of Indigenous clients among all clients whose needs for accommodation and services other than accommodation were met, 2011-12**a**

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| Figure 17.2 Proportion of Indigenous clients among all clients whose needs for accommodation and services other than accommodation were met, 2011-12  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

a SA collection methodology for 2011-12 does not allow for this type of analysis.

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.4; 2013 Report, figure 17.3, p. 17.11.

Table 17.1 **Proportion of Indigenous people represented in specialist homelessness services and in the community, 2011-12 (per cent)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *NSW* | *Vic* | *Qld* | *WA* | *SA* | *Tas* | *ACT* | *NT* | *Aust* |
| *Indigenous people* | | | | | | | | | |
| In specialist homelessness services | 23.7 | 8.4 | 30.9 | 35.2 | 22.3 | 15.5 | 15.8 | 72.6 | 22.4 |
| In the community, 2011 | 2.9 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 2.3 | 4.7 | 1.7 | 29.8 | 3.0 |

*Source*: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2012, *Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2012*,   
Cat. no. 3101.0, Canberra;. AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.6; 2013 Report, table 17.1, p. 17.12.

*Development of agreed support plan*

‘Development of a case management plan’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide high quality services that are appropriately targeted to the needs of clients (box 17.3).

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| Box 17.3 **Development of agreed support plan** |
| ‘Development of a case management plan’ is defined as the number of clients with an agreed case management plan divided by the total number of clients. Data are reported for all clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.  A high or increasing proportion of clients with agreed case management plans is desirable. However, in some instances, a support plan may be judged to be inappropriate (such as when a support period is short term, for example 24 hours).  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, there was an agreed case management plan for 63.1 per cent of clients in 2011-12 (compared with 69.5 per cent for Indigenous clients). These proportions varied across jurisdictions (2013 Report, figure 17.6 and 2013 Report, tables 17A.9 and 17A.10).

*Match of needs of clients*

‘Match of needs of clients’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that services meet clients’ individual needs (box 17.4).

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| Box 17.4 **Match of needs of clients** |
| ‘Match of needs of clients’ is defined by two measures:   * the number of clients who required services that were provided, as well as those referred to another agency, as a proportion of the total number of clients * the number of young clients (aged 12 to 18 years) who needed education and/or training assistance, and maintained or achieved education and/or training after support, as a proportion of the total number of young clients (aged 12 to 18 years) who sought education and/or training assistance.   The range of services needed by clients is broad (ranging from meals to laundry facilities to long term accommodation), so the effect of not providing these services varies.  Holding other factors constant, a high or increasing proportion of clients who received services they needed, or who were referred to another agency, is desirable.  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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The proportions for Indigenous clients (98.3 per cent) who received services they needed in 2011-12 were higher than that for all clients (97.4 per cent). These proportions varied across jurisdictions (figures 17.3 and 2013 Report, figure 17.9).

Figure 17.3 Support needs of Indigenous clients, provided and referred by agencies, 2011-12**a**

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| Figure 17.3 Support needs of Indigenous clients, provided and referred by agencies, 2011-12  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

a SA collection methodology for 2011-12 does not allow for this type of analysis.

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.12; 2013 Report, figure 17.8, p. 17.18.

*Achievement of employment on exit*

‘Achievement of independent housing’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate as productive and self-reliant members of society at the end of their support period (box 17.5).

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| Box 17.5 **Achievement of independent housing on exit** |
| ‘Achievement of independent housing’ is defined by three measures:   * the proportion of clients who needed assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing and achieved independent housing * the proportion of clients who needed assistance with obtaining independent housing and were in non-independent housing at the start of the support period and obtained independent housing after support * the proportion of clients who needed assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing, and had independent housing after support, who did not present for accommodation within twelve months of receiving support.   Data are reported for all clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.  A high or increasing proportion of closed support periods in which clients achieve independent housing is desirable.  This indicator compares the proportion of clients who were in independent housing before and after they received support from homelessness services. It relates to relatively short term outcomes — that is, outcomes for clients immediately after their support period. Longer term outcomes are important, but more difficult to measure.  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, of Indigenous clients who needed assistance with obtaining or maintaining independent housing 39.2 per cent achieved independent housing in 2011-12 (figure 17.4). This included clients who moved or returned to private rental housing (12.3 per cent), and to public or community rental housing (18.0 per cent). (table 17A.19).

Clients who did not achieve independent housing included those who moved to, or continued to live in, short to medium term accommodation provided by homelessness services and other forms of non‑independent accommodation (table 17A.19).

Figure 17.4 Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing who obtained or maintained independent housing after support, 2011-12**a, b**

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| Figure 17.4 Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing who obtained or maintained independent housing after support, 2011-12  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

a SA collection methodology for 2011-12 does not allow for this type of analysis. b See notes to table 17A.19 for more information.

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.19; 2013 Report, figure 17.15, p. 17.25.

*Achievement of employment on exit*

‘Achievement of employment on exit’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate as productive and self-reliant members of the community at the end of their support period (box 17.6).

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| Box 17.6 **Achievement of employment on exit** |
| ‘Achievement of employment on exit’ is defined by three measures:   * the proportion of clients who needed employment and/or training assistance, who achieved or maintained employment after support * the proportion of clients who needed employment and/or training assistance, who were unemployed at the start of the support period, who achieved employment after support * the proportion of clients who needed employment and/or training assistance and who were not in the labour force at the start of the support period, who achieved employment after support.   Holding other factors constant, a high or increasing proportion of clients achieving employment after support is desirable.  Data are reported for all clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.  This indicator compares clients’ employment status before and after they needed support. This indicator relates to relatively short term outcomes — that is, outcomes for clients immediately after their support period. Longer term outcomes are important, but more difficult to measure.  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, of those Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain employment and training when entering homelessness services in 2011-12, 11.0 per cent were employed either part-time or full-time after support, compared to 3.9 per cent before support. Amongst the 11.0 per cent employed after support, 3.9 per cent were employed full time and 7.1 per cent were employed part time after support. These proportions varied across jurisdictions (table 17A.23).

*Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness*

‘Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate independently in society at the end of their support period (box 17.7).

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| Box 17.7 **Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness** |
| ‘Proportion of people experiencing repeat periods of homelessness’ is defined as the number of clients who change status from ‘homeless’ to ‘not homeless’ and back to ‘homeless’; or have repeat periods where housing situation is identified as ‘homeless’.  A low or decreasing proportion of clients who more than once required housing or accommodation support specifically is desirable.  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, 7.3 per cent of all clients and 8.0 per cent of Indigenous clients who experienced homelessness at some time in 2011-12, had more than one period of homelessness in 2011-12. This proportion varied across jurisdictions (figure 17.5).

Figure 17.5 Clients who had more than one period of homelessness, all clients and Indigenous clients, 2011-12

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| Figure 17.5 Clients who had more than one period of homelessness, all clients and Indigenous clients, 2011-12  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.26 and 2013 Report, table 17A.25; 2013 Report, figure 17.20, p. 17.31.

*Achievement of income on exit*

Achievement of income on exit’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to enable clients to participate independently in the community at the end of their support period (box 17.8).

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| Box 17.8 **Achievement of income on exit** |
| ‘Achievement of income on exit’ is defined as the proportion of clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain income assistance who exited homelessness services with an income source.  Data are reported for all clients, and separately for Indigenous clients.  A high or increasing proportion of clients who needed income assistance and exited homelessness services with an income source is desirable.  This indicator compares these clients’ income status before and after they received support. It is assumed that a client’s independence and self-reliance is enhanced when the client experiences a positive change in income source (for example, from having no income support to obtaining some income, including wages and/or benefits) on exit from services.  Data reported for this indicator are comparable across jurisdictions.  Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance when entering homelessness services in 2011-12, 96.9 per cent had an income source after support. Amongst the 96.9 per cent, the proportion whose source of income was a government pension/allowance increased from 64.8 per cent before support to 72.0 per cent after support. The proportion of clients whose source of income was employee/business income increased from 2.8 per cent before support to 3.3 per cent after support. Proportions varied across jurisdictions (figure 17.6).

Figure 17.6 Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance and who had an income source after support, by income source, 2011-12**a, b**

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| 1. **Income source before support**c   Figure 17.6 Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance and who had an income source after support, by income source, 2011-12 - (a) Income source before support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image.  **(b) Income source after support**c  Figure 17.22 Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance and who had an income source after support, by income source, 2011-12 - (b) Income source after support  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

a SA collection methodology for 2011-12 does not allow for this type of analysis. b See notes to table 17A.28 for more information. c ‘No income’ is nil or rounded to zero for ACT. ‘Employee/business income is nil or rounded to zero for ACT. ‘Other’ is nil or rounded to zero for Queensland, Tasmania the ACT and the NT.

*Source*: AIHW (unpublished) *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: 2011-12 National Data Collection annual report*, Australia; table 17A.28; 2012 Report, figure 17.22, p. 17.34.

**Definitions of key terms and indicators**

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| ***Based on the SHS client collection*** | |
| **Age** | Age is calculated as age of the client on the start date of their first support period of the reporting period or the first date of the reporting period, whichever of the two is the later date. |
| **Client** | A person who receives a specialist homelessness service. A client can be of any age―children are also clients if they receive a service from a specialist homelessness agency.  To be a client, the person must directly receive a service and not just be a beneficiary of a service. Children who present with a parent or guardian and receive a service are considered  to be a client. This includes a service that they share with their parent or guardian such as meals or accommodation.  Children who present with a parent or guardian but do not directly receive a service are not considered to be clients. This includes situations where the parent or guardian receives assistance to prevent tenancy failure or eviction. Clients can be counted differently according to the data item that is being reported:   * Clients (demographic)—For clients with multiple support periods, reported data is determined based on the information at the start date of the client’s first support period in the reporting period or the first date of the reporting period, whichever is later * Clients (counted by support periods)—For each data item, clients are counted based on support periods with distinct client information. The same client can be counted more than once if they have multiple support periods with a different response for the data item. The result is that percentages do not add up to 100 * Clients (outcomes) - Clients are counted based on closed support periods where a valid response is recorded both when presenting to an agency and at the end of support. |
| **Closed support period** | A support period that had finished on or before the end of the reporting period — 30 June 2012. |
| **Homelessness** | A person is homeless if they are either:   * living in non-conventional accommodation or ‘sleeping rough’, or * living in short-term or emergency accommodation due to lack of other options. |
| **Indigenous status** | In practice, it is not realistic to collect information on the community acceptance of part of ‘The Commonwealth Definition’ and therefore standard questions on Indigenous status relate to descent and self-identification only.  Where Indigenous status is not stated, the ‘not stated’ figure includes clients where contradictory Indigenous status’ were reported across multiple support periods as well as, missing, ‘not applicable’ and ‘don’t know’ responses. |
| **Labour force status** | Reported data excludes clients aged under 15. |

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| **Non-conventional accommodation** | Non-conventional accommodation is defined as:   * living on the streets * sleeping in parks * squatting * staying in cars or railway carriages * living in improvised dwellings * living in long grass.. |
| **Reporting period** | For the purposes of this report the reporting period is the  financial year-to-date (FYTD):1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. |
| **Short-term or emergency accommodation** | Short-term or emergency accommodation  includes:   * refuges * crisis shelter * couch surfing * living temporarily with friends and relatives * insecure accommodation on a short-term basis * emergency accommodation arranged by a specialist homelessness • agency (e.g. in hotels, motels etc.).   The following short-term accommodation options are not included:   * hotels, motels, caravan parks and other temporary accommodation used when a person is on holiday or travelling * custodial and care arrangements, such as prisons and hospitals * temporary accommodation used by a person while renovating usual residence or building a new residence (e.g. weekenders, caravans). |
| **Specialist homelessness agency** | An organisation that receives government funding to deliver specialist homelessness services. Assistance is provided to clients aimed at responding to or preventing homelessness. Agencies may also receive funding from other sources.  Inclusion of agencies in the SHSC is determined by the state and territory departments responsible for administering the government response to homelessness. Not all funded agencies are required to participate in data collection. |
| **Support period** | The period of time a client receives services from an agency is referred to as a support period. A support period starts on the day the client first receives a service from an agency. A support period ends when:   * the relationship between the • client and the agency ends * the client has reached their maximum amount of support the agency can offer * a client has not received any services from the agency for a whole calendar month * and there is no ongoing relationship.   Where a client has an appointment with the agency which is more than a calendar month in the future then it is not necessary to close the support period. This is because it is expected that there is an ongoing relationship with the client. The end of the support period is the day the client last received services from an agency. |

**List of attachment tables**

Attachment tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the Compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by a ‘17A’ prefix (for example, table 17A.1 is table 1 in the Services for people with disability attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

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| **2011-12 (SHSC)** | |
| **Table 17A.4** | Proportion of Indigenous clients among all clients whose needs for accommodation and services other than accommodation were met, 2011-12 |
| **Table 17A.6** | Proportion of Indigenous and NESB people represented in specialist homelessness services and in the community, 2011-12 |
| **Table 17A.10** | Proportion of Indigenous clients with a case management plan, 2011-12 |
| **Table 17A.12** | Support needs of Indigenous clients, provided and referred by agencies, 2011-12 |
| **Table 17A.19** | Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing and who obtained or maintained independent housing after support, 2011-12 |
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| **Table 17A.26** | Proportion of Indigenous clients experiencing homelessness who had repeat periods of homelessness, 2011-12 |
| **Table 17A.28** | Proportion of Indigenous clients who needed income assistance and who had an income source after support, 2011-12 |
| **2010-11 (SAAP)** | |
| **Table 17A.38** | Proportion of Indigenous people among all accommodated clients and among people whose valid requests for accommodation were unmet |
| **Table 17A.41** | Closed support periods, by the existence of a support plan, Indigenous clients |
| **Table 17A.43** | Support needs of Indigenous clients, met and unmet |
| **Table 17A.51** | Closed support periods in which Indigenous clients needed assistance to obtain/maintain independent housing, by type of tenure |
| **Table 17A.53** | Closed support periods: Labour force status of Indigenous clients who needed employment and training assistance, before and after support |
| **Table 17A.55** | Indigenous clients who exited from the service and who returned to agencies before the end of that year |
| **Table 17A.56** | Proportion of clients who more than once had a housing/accommodation need identified by an agency worker, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 17A.58** | Source of income immediately before and after support of Indigenous clients who needed assistance to obtain/maintain a pension or benefit |

**References**

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 performance report for 2008-09*, www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/housing.cfm (accessed 1 October 2010).

1. Social housing includes public and community housing. For further information on these forms of housing assistance, see chapter 16 (box 16.1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)