



## HOMELESS NUMBERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### What is the estimated number of people who are homeless in Western Australia?

The total estimated number of people who were homeless in Western Australia on Census night 2011 was 9,592. Of these:

- 925 people were sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings;
- 931 people were in supported accommodation for the homeless;
- 2,169 people were staying temporarily with other households;
- 1,337 people were staying in boarding houses;
- 76 were in other temporary lodging; and
- 4,154 people were living in severely crowded dwellings.

Homeless people living in severely crowded dwellings formed the largest group of people. In Western Australia, 43% of homeless people were those living in severely crowded dwellings.

### What is the estimated number of people who are homeless in Perth?

On Census night 2011, there were an estimated 4,909 people experiencing homelessness in the Greater Perth area. The areas covered in Greater Perth include Mandurah and Serpentine-Jarrahdale regions. (ABS Statistical Area Level 4)

### What percentage of homeless people are Aboriginal in Western Australia?

On Census night 2011, 35% of homeless people identified as being Aboriginal.

### What regional area has the greatest number of homeless people?

On Census night 2011, in regional Western Australia, the Kimberley had the highest number of people experiencing homelessness with a total of 1,877 (ABS Statistical Area Level 3)

### How many people seek assistance from specialist homelessness services (SHS) in Western Australia?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Annual Report on Specialist Homelessness Services 2013-14 (AIHW Annual Report on SHS 2013-14), provides information regarding people who are homeless and or at risk of homelessness and access specialist homelessness services. The report stated that in Western Australia in 2013-14:

- 21,437 clients accessed SHS;
- 62% of clients who received support from SHS were female;
- 19% of clients were aged under 10 years and 29% of clients were under 18 years;
- 38% of clients identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin;
- 57% of clients were at risk of homelessness when they first began receiving support;
- 39% of clients received assistance as a result of domestic and family violence
- Of the 21,437 clients, an estimated 12,613 (59%) needed accommodation. Of the 12,613 clients that needed accommodation:
  - 9,314 (74%) were provided with accommodation;
  - 1,297 (10%) were referred to other services for accommodation; and
  - 2,002 (16%) were neither provided with accommodation or referred.

For more detailed information on homelessness visit the Australian Bureau of Statistics' website:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2049.02011?OpenDocument>

For more detailed information on AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services 2013-14 Annual Report visit the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550000> or information on previous reports is available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/homelessness-publications/>