



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

Summary of the 2009/10 report on the use of specialist homelessness services

In summary:

It shows that the number of clients supported increased from 125,800 people in 2008/09 to 135,700 people in 2009/10, an increase of nearly 8%. The number of accompanying children supported rose by 6.3% from 79,100 in 2008/09 to 84,100 in 2009/10.

In total 219,900 people were supported by specialist homelessness services in 2009/10. This equates to 1 in 100 Australians or 1% of the population.

1 in every 62 Australian children were supported by specialist homelessness services in 2009/10. 1 in every 38 Australian children aged 0-4 were supported by specialist homelessness services.

Women aged 25 and over and women presenting with children cited escaping domestic violence as their main reason for seeking assistance in 40% and 48% of cases respectively.

Young women aged under 25 cited family breakdown as their main reason seeking assistance in 21% of cases. Leaving domestic and family violence was cited by this group in nearly 18% of cases.

Males aged 25 and over cited financial crisis as their main reason for seeking assistance in 25.5% of cases. The next most often cited reason was problematic substance abuse cited by 11.5% of men aged 25 and over.

For young men aged under 25, family breakdown was cited by 21% as the main reason for seeking assistance, needing time out from a family situation was cited by 12% while the next most often cited main reason for seeking assistance by men in this aged group was being evicted or 'asked to leave' their previous accommodation.

The data showed that men with children were most likely to nominate family breakdown or financial crisis as their main reasons for seeking assistance.

The mean length of support was 60 days while the median length of support provided per client was 14 days.