

Homelessness data tables – March 2020

Note 1: The following figures relating to numbers and rates of homeless persons are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and are **estimates**, not actual figures.

Under the ABS Census method, a series of analytical techniques based on both the characteristics observed in the Census and assumptions about the way people respond to a Census question are applied to estimate the number of homeless persons.

The approach considers people living in private dwellings and non-private dwellings (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, prisons, hospitals, hostels for the homeless etc.) on Census night, and those who on Census night were in areas where people are known to live in improvised dwellings, tents or to be sleeping out.

Note 2: The interior values in **all tables** have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) by the ABS to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals. See bottom of **Page 6** for a detailed explanation of perturbation and other definitions.

Senator McCarthy has requested that “the Department tables work done of the following issues broken down by region and/or electorate:

1. The rate of homelessness
2. Number of homeless persons
 - a. Youth
 - b. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - c. Older people
 - d. People with a disability
 - e. Culturally and linguistically diverse people
3. Persons at risk of homelessness
4. Mortgage stress
5. Comparative historical data and any modelling conducted on housing and homelessness in Australia over the last 7 years.”

1 and 2: The rate and number of homelessness

Note: See the **Appendix** for a complete breakdown of number of homeless persons by operational homelessness group and Commonwealth Electorate Divisions 2018. **Australia totals include estimates for Other Territories.**

Table 1: Number and rate of homeless persons, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons	Rate per 10,000 of the population
NSW	37,715	50.4
Vic	24,817	41.9
Qld	21,671	46.1
SA	6,224	37.1
WA	9,005	36.4
Tas	1,622	31.8
NT	13,717	599.4
ACT	1,596	40.2
Total homeless persons	116,427	49.8

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.1

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2a: Youth

Table 2: Number of youth (persons aged 12-24) experiencing homelessness, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons
NSW	9,041
Vic	6,373
Qld	4,456
SA	1,587
WA	1,921
Tas	405
NT	3,546
ACT	351
Aust	27,683

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.3

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2b: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Table 3: Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons
NSW	2,278
Vic	783
Qld	4,450
SA	936
WA	2,618
Tas	130
NT	12,131
ACT	95
Aust	23,437

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.3

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2c: Older people

Table 4: Number of older people (persons aged 55 and over) experiencing homelessness, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons
NSW	6,407
Vic	3,311
Qld	4,437
SA	997
WA	1,500
Tas	286
NT	1,424
ACT	242
Aust	18,625

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.3

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2d: People with a disability

Table 5: Number of people with a disability (persons with a core activity need for assistance) experiencing homelessness, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons
NSW	1,876
Vic	1,371
Qld	1,157
SA	317
WA	333
Tas	108
NT	462
ACT	99
Aust	5,737

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.3

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2e(a): Culturally and linguistically diverse people

Table 6: Linguistic diversity (proficiency in Spoken English/Language) of people experiencing homelessness, 2016

Number of homeless persons by proficiency in Spoken English/Language						
State or territory of usual residence	Speaks English only	Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all	Not stated
NSW	15,557	5,700	6,194	3,551	1,025	5,694
Vic	9,822	3,852	3,714	2,037	645	4,750
Qld	13,659	1,870	1,729	929	232	3,257
SA	3,084	730	849	463	169	935
WA	4,390	1,178	1,299	543	142	1,451
Tas	1,230	62	73	51	12	191
NT	1,612	4,717	4,321	1,266	406	1,393
ACT	733	217	189	87	27	343
Aust	50,116	18,333	18,363	8,930	2,662	18,019

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Tables 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and 1.8

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

2e(b): Culturally and linguistically diverse people

Table 7: Cultural diversity (country of birth) of people experiencing homelessness, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of homeless persons by country of birth										
	Australia	Oceania and Antarctica	North-West Europe	Southern and Eastern Europe	North Africa and the Middle East	South-East Asia	North-East Asia	Southern and Central Asia	Americas	Sub-Saharan Africa	Other
NSW	15,753	1,753	1,038	607	1,600	4,002	3,236	3,823	746	408	4,753
Vic	10,391	917	533	381	1,170	2,197	1,151	2,996	262	709	4,124
Qld	13,327	1,277	870	206	303	580	1,076	554	308	390	2,780
SA	3,395	88	208	57	121	325	272	693	32	251	776
WA	5,617	259	434	95	150	528	468	434	70	215	743
Tas	1,209	14	59	7	24	13	63	43	13	23	158
NT	12,371	36	127	21	20	108	93	63	11	17	850
ACT	710	26	32	27	104	95	99	115	10	40	328
Aust	62,816	4,356	3,295	1,404	3,483	7,856	6,461	8,730	1,456	2,057	14,508

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Tables 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and 1.8

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

3: Persons at risk of homelessness

Note: The ABS does not report on individuals as being 'at risk' of homelessness, however does report on persons who are 'marginally housed', so we provide these in lieu of figures relating to the number of individuals 'at risk' of homelessness.

Table 8: Persons living in other marginal housing, 2016

State or territory of usual residence	Number of persons marginally housed		
	Persons living in other crowded dwellings	Persons in other improvised dwellings	Persons who are marginally housed in caravan parks
NSW	32,512	1,758	3,000
Vic	19,780	440	1,862
Qld	12,509	1,741	3,947
SA	3,808	261	402
WA	5,787	774	1,026
Tas	674	132	137
NT	5,111	283	265
ACT	704	0	42
Total persons	80,908	5,404	10,685

Source: ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 1.2

Note: The values in the above table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to ensure confidentiality, and as a result may not add to the totals.

4: Mortgage stress

Note 1: The ABS does not report on the number or rate of individuals experiencing 'mortgage stress'. The below table sets out estimates of the average proportion of income paid by lower income households* in each state and territory.

Note 2: The ABS defines households as being in 'housing stress' when they meet the definition of a lower income household and pay 30 per cent or more of their gross household income to housing costs.

Table 9: Housing costs as a proportion of gross household income, owners with a mortgage, lower income households*, 2017-18

State or territory of usual residence	Estimate housing costs as a proportion of gross household income (%)	95% margin of error of proportion (±)
NSW	33.2	4.2
Vic	26.3	0.7
Qld	27.7	6.8
SA	24.5	1.6
WA	31.8	3.3
Tas	21.7	2.3
NT	30.1**	***
ACT	30.6	2.2
Total Australia	28.6	1.0

Source: 4130: Housing and Occupancy Costs, Australia, 2017-18 – Table 8.3

* Lower income households include households containing people with equivalised disposable household income between the 3rd and 40th percentiles, and excluding the 1st and 2nd percentiles

** Estimate has a high margin of error and should be used with caution

*** Not available for publication

5: Comparative historical data and any modelling conducted on housing and homelessness in Australia over the last 7 years.

Comparative historical data

The department has not conducted any modelling on housing and homelessness in the past seven years.

The ABS publishes 6416.0 - Residential Property Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, which indexes the value of residential property in Australia over time.

The Reserve Bank of Australia produces a Household Sector Chart Pack which tracks a number of measures relating to housing and housing affordability over time, including:

- Consumer sentiment
- Private dwelling investment
- Private residential building approvals
- House prices and household debt
- Household wealth and liabilities
- Housing prices, and
- Housing loan commitments

Definitions

Perturbation

Perturbation (randomisation) is applied by the ABS across all non-zero cells in a table, including the totals cells. Perturbation may change the true cell value by either increasing or decreasing the value by a small amount. This introduces almost no bias. However, very small cells may change by a large amount in proportion to the true value, and therefore should not be relied upon. All non-zero cells in tables are subject to perturbation, a small adjustment made to cell values, including totals, to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Totals are not calculated by summing the interior values of the table. Instead, more accurate totals are provided by calculating the true total, and then perturbing this value. Perturbation makes small changes to all estimates including both the interior cells of the table and the totals. If you attempt to reconstruct a total on the basis of the perturbed interior cells, you will add together the small changes made to each cell which may result in a large change relative to the perturbed total.

Housing Stress

The ABS defines households as being in 'housing stress' when they meet the definition of lower income and pay 30 per cent or more of their gross household income to housing costs.

Lower income household

The ABS defines Lower income households as those households containing people with equivalised disposable household income between the 3rd and 40th percentiles, and excluding the 1st and 2nd percentiles.

Place of enumeration

Place of enumeration is the place at which the person is counted i.e. where they spent Census night, which may not be where they usually live.

Place of usual residence

Place of usual residence refers to where a person usually lives regardless of where they were on Census night.

2: Number of homeless persons

Note 1: Table 10 below details the number of homeless persons by ABS homelessness operational groups based on their **place of enumeration** (i.e. where they were counted on Census night). **Tables 1 through 8** in this document are based on **place of usual residence** at the state or territory level.

ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 presents both place of enumeration and place of usual residence counts. The calculation of the homeless rate at the State/Territory and Australia level is based on **usual residence** to allow comparisons with other Census rates (e.g. people with a disability) which are typically calculated on a **usual residence** basis.

However, the homelessness rate at the sub-State level (i.e. SA2, SA3 and SA4 geography) is calculated on a **place of enumeration** basis to help identify areas where services are needed, particularly homeless people who do not have a usual address.

Note 2: The Commonwealth Electoral Division data below (exclusive of state and territory totals) have been provided to the department by the ABS as a customised request, and are not published on the ABS website.

Note 3: The state and territory totals below have been sourced from ABS 2049: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 – Table 5.1. Because electoral boundaries in some cases cross state or territory boundaries (for example Norfolk Island which is geographically separate from the ACT but included in the ACT's electorate of Bean), these totals are not representative of the summed electorate totals.

Note 4: Cells in the below table have been randomly adjusted (perturbed) to avoid the release of confidential data. No reliance should be placed on small cells and interior cells may not sum to totals.

Table 10: Commonwealth Electoral Divisions Australia 2018 by OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups (Place of enumeration)

Commonwealth Electoral Division 2018 (place of enumeration)	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	Persons staying temporarily with other households	Persons living in boarding houses	Persons in other temporary lodgings	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	All homeless
Australia	8,200	21,235	17,725	17,503	678	51,088	116,427
New South Wales	2,584	5,843	5,366	6,853	220	16,821	37,692
Banks	-	50	98	43	-	371	556
Barton	3	116	86	158	-	896	1,260
Bennelong	-	51	76	45	-	337	506
Berowra	11	11	65	3	-	107	197
Blaxland	21	98	98	228	8	2,126	2,568
Bradfield	-	16	48	52	3	161	274
Calare	37	100	132	69	3	63	396
Chifley	44	138	122	18	-	687	1,001
Cook	13	29	64	26	-	35	165
Cowper	45	292	204	18	11	127	702
Cunningham	133	139	128	127	11	96	627
Dobell	61	121	167	59	9	47	455
Eden-Monaro	61	100	179	11	17	80	440
Farrer	22	57	141	56	10	150	426

Commonwealth Electoral Division 2018 (place of enumeration)	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	Persons staying temporarily with other households	Persons living in boarding houses	Persons in other temporary lodgings	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	All homeless
Fowler	8	442	78	13	-	1,233	1,767
Gilmore	39	108	176	11	5	45	395
Grayndler	17	259	90	1,140	-	335	1,840
Greenway	28	90	83	22	-	441	664
Hughes	9	29	78	13	-	36	167
Hume	48	26	85	14	-	124	292
Hunter	64	45	152	38	-	96	403
Kingsford Smith	5	97	117	304	5	416	942
Lindsay	24	310	132	26	-	330	824
Lyne	35	78	164	8	5	39	337
Macarthur	13	320	134	33	7	339	846
Mackellar	15	22	78	35	-	170	322
Macquarie	36	161	88	11	5	94	396
McMahon	64	217	90	61	-	935	1,371
Mitchell	-	24	45	14	-	147	229
New England	22	107	160	149	6	220	659
Newcastle	89	197	96	291	3	108	781
North Sydney	12	30	65	294	3	104	501
Page	144	128	245	90	19	119	742
Parkes	112	132	144	82	8	198	672
Parramatta	24	222	77	102	-	938	1,364
Paterson	17	66	120	23	9	33	261
Reid	14	77	88	382	3	871	1,431
Richmond	356	92	215	63	20	97	838
Riverina	31	41	125	17	13	35	256
Robertson	129	118	131	67	4	71	515
Shortland	36	51	108	-	3	45	238
Sydney	624	481	168	1,473	16	1,960	4,716
Warringah	65	51	73	188	-	88	466
Watson	12	116	66	257	-	1,123	1,571
Wentworth	33	62	96	704	4	101	1,004
Werriwa	5	214	91	-	3	539	851
Whitlam	14	111	129	38	7	137	436
Victoria	1,119	7,172	3,080	4,413	108	8,930	24,828
Aston	12	138	70	39	-	104	365
Ballarat	13	248	74	113	-	57	507
Bendigo	14	170	94	38	3	82	397
Bruce	19	364	69	314	-	1,071	1,838
Calwell	4	176	68	3	3	595	858
Casey	21	96	115	51	4	77	366
Chisholm	4	195	80	263	3	288	827
Cooper	5	458	101	143	11	295	1,009
Corangamite	16	23	89	96	4	35	265
Corio	57	228	100	18	-	142	548
Deakin	10	238	38	49	4	98	437
Dunkley	80	179	97	143	-	59	553
Flinders	44	121	101	5	-	23	295

Commonwealth Electoral Division 2018 (place of enumeration)	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	Persons staying temporarily with other households	Persons living in boarding houses	Persons in other temporary lodgings	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	All homeless
Fraser	3	303	90	46	-	888	1,328
Gellibrand	19	242	66	108	-	213	651
Gippsland	31	204	87	89	4	54	459
Goldstein	6	204	49	39	-	39	340
Gorton	3	84	65	14	-	378	547
Higgins	3	231	55	195	3	140	626
Holt	14	65	59	17	-	679	834
Hotham	3	220	56	222	-	470	974
Indi	56	140	121	8	4	69	407
Isaacs	5	159	62	102	3	145	478
Jagajaga	-	208	47	9	-	81	346
Kooyong	4	62	35	228	-	82	410
La Trobe	3	67	64	30	-	150	315
Lalor	18	91	90	6	3	458	673
Macnamara	91	339	99	761	10	121	1,414
Mallee	47	161	100	29	3	128	473
Maribyrnong	8	278	85	129	-	299	803
McEwen	3	38	78	7	-	26	149
Melbourne	390	421	180	852	27	537	2,403
Menzies	-	117	47	35	-	65	260
Monash	7	82	102	-	4	72	261
Nicholls	59	189	125	51	5	214	638
Scullin	-	225	80	19	-	272	600
Wannon	34	203	84	15	-	79	420
Wills	8	211	72	131	-	338	754
Queensland	1,738	3,728	4,827	3,616	215	7,601	21,715
Blair	11	100	162	101	-	190	569
Bonner	3	130	108	22	-	102	372
Bowman	31	66	92	-	-	59	247
Brisbane	169	551	116	1,114	17	272	2,247
Capricornia	73	97	126	162	6	96	558
Dawson	77	125	240	109	25	103	673
Dickson	-	39	122	3	-	85	250
Fadden	7	55	146	56	9	88	351
Fairfax	29	140	184	6	10	52	419
Fisher	21	32	207	36	14	49	362
Flynn	179	56	241	40	-	214	733
Forde	3	45	150	5	-	145	357
Griffith	17	225	107	459	9	138	954
Groom	25	139	116	82	3	91	453
Herbert	41	209	137	205	-	679	1,272
Hinkler	51	158	214	46	4	84	560
Kennedy	292	122	339	42	7	1,101	1,901
Leichhardt	187	374	266	388	24	1,122	2,370
Lilley	17	175	97	50	-	87	422
Longman	30	93	224	45	-	266	658
Maranoa	86	41	205	29	12	160	522

Commonwealth Electoral Division 2018 (place of enumeration)	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	Persons staying temporarily with other households	Persons living in boarding houses	Persons in other temporary lodgings	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	All homeless
McPherson	66	40	167	58	15	74	419
Moncrieff	144	138	179	147	36	165	806
Moreton	-	172	100	213	-	478	974
Oxley	-	69	102	14	-	382	564
Petrie	12	103	101	-	4	131	345
Rankin	-	113	147	18	-	623	906
Ryan	-	13	80	107	-	128	327
Wide Bay	102	106	211	36	13	256	724
Wright	40	7	143	20	9	169	392
South Australia	388	1,424	1,311	907	31	2,140	6,203
Adelaide	138	338	137	522	9	500	1,641
Barker	94	146	176	35	4	169	612
Boothby	7	97	97	119	3	156	486
Grey	104	219	159	32	3	376	896
Hindmarsh	10	154	85	52	-	117	418
Kingston	9	215	167	13	-	64	470
Makin	-	32	120	19	3	216	392
Mayo	11	11	113	17	8	20	183
Spence	5	155	193	41	-	375	773
Sturt	5	53	63	62	6	143	337
Western Australia	1,083	1,055	1,963	1,000	51	3,871	9,022
Brand	18	17	119	-	-	58	217
Burt	4	23	102	25	-	261	418
Canning	70	21	134	10	-	104	339
Cowan	3	6	68	25	-	268	374
Curtin	12	6	68	24	4	54	177
Durack	361	168	400	153	17	1,356	2,450
Forrest	68	24	168	17	-	64	348
Fremantle	54	103	97	275	-	131	665
Hasluck	50	31	94	71	-	269	510
Moore	4	23	75	6	-	22	134
O'Connor	70	61	184	52	7	423	800
Pearce	32	43	117	17	3	82	296
Perth	285	437	86	78	12	212	1,113
Stirling	15	24	90	53	-	233	405
Swan	38	60	95	166	-	239	601
Tangney	-	16	60	11	-	88	177
Tasmania	136	574	482	138	25	267	1,615
Bass	18	126	79	38	4	29	294
Braddon	25	158	79	5	9	43	317
Clark	56	205	97	78	8	82	527
Franklin	22	86	117	13	3	39	279
Lyons	21	3	113	-	3	62	198
Northern Territory	1,100	636	414	490	18	11,065	13,727
Lingiari	637	321	244	285	13	10,718	12,221
Solomon	460	317	171	204	9	356	1,513
Australian Capital	54	805	271	97	7	370	1,599

Commonwealth Electoral Division 2018 (place of enumeration)	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless	Persons staying temporarily with other households	Persons living in boarding houses	Persons in other temporary lodgings	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	All homeless
Territory							
Bean	3	169	105	-	-	59	344
Canberra	44	501	91	82	7	174	898
Fenner	4	127	77	12	-	152	382
Other Territories	4	0	0	0	0	23	27

