

# Specialist Homelessness Sector

*Homelessness is not just about housing*

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## Specialist Homelessness Service Sector

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Our Specialist Homelessness Services sector is comprised of 40 providers, who provide 75 Programs across 97 services outlets. The majority of these providers are not-for-profit organisations who assist people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to overcome the complex and multiple access barriers they face to access and maintain stable and secure accommodation. Providing someone with a house without the right supports in place can repeatedly lead to homelessness. We provide support to the following groups:

- Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence
- Aged
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- Single Adults and Families
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Youth (aged 12 to 25 years) and young children with accompanying parents

Our range of programs includes:

- Boarding House Support: assisting single people – primarily men – off the street and into boarding houses with a goal towards permanent accommodation.
- Intensive Tenancy Support: providing case management to people whose tenancy is at risk.
- 24hr short to long term accommodation for young people 12-25yrs leading to permanent supported housing options in the community. Therapeutic counselling is available within this model to restore young people to their families.
- Crisis referrals to accommodation for adults and families.
- Specialised programs to assist children and young people (e.g. sexual abuse counselling, support to engage young people and children with education).
- Duty/Intake: assisting families who are in crisis and homeless to housing options.
- Outreach case management support to complex clients living in social and public housing.

In 2013/14, **23,916** people in South Australia were assisted by the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) sector. Of the 23,916 people 24% were Aboriginal and Torres Islander (ATSI) and 24% were children between the ages of 0-14 years. Approximately, one in three (33%) people who approach SHS are people escaping domestic violence.

## Did you know?

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- 84% of people in 2013/14 were supported to sustain their tenancies or obtain sustainable housing.
- 91% who had been sleeping out / rough sleeping at the start of support had been assisted into accommodation.
- Recent research undertaken by Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has shown a 3% increase in demand nationwide for Specialist Homelessness Services.