

Older Australians and Homelessness

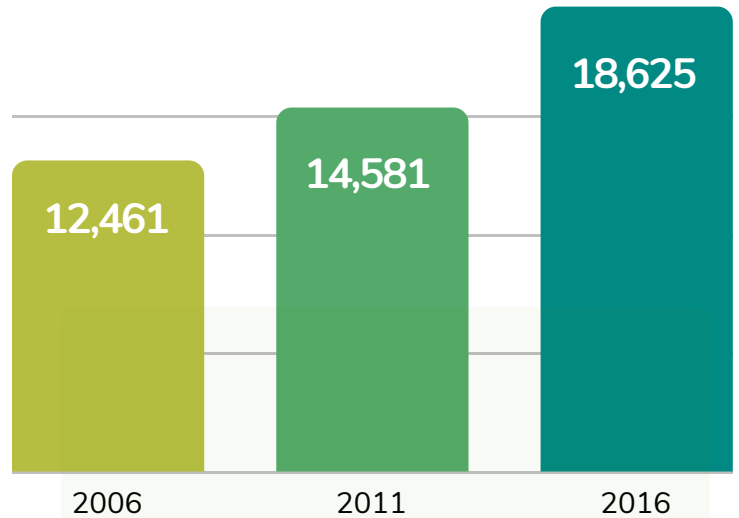
Council to Homeless Persons. Updated August 2018



■ On Census night 2016

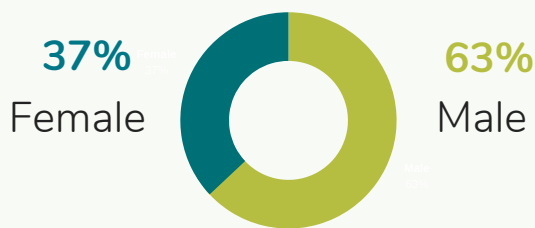
18,625

people over the age of 55 were experiencing homelessness ¹



■ Older persons' homelessness is growing dramatically in Australia. From 2006 -2016, homelessness in people over the age of 55 rose by 40% ¹

■ **Who are they?**

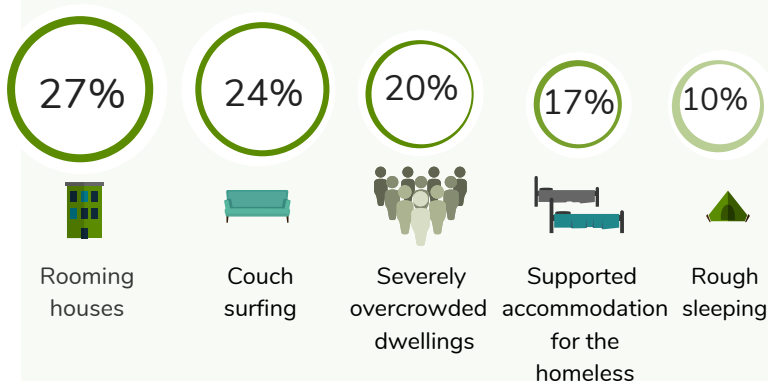


Older Australians represent 16% of the homeless population (or 1 in every 6 people ¹ experiencing homelessness)

Why is homelessness in older people rising?

- Affordable housing is in short supply in Australia and, since 2011, there has been a 42% increase in people 65 and over paying more than 30% of their income on rent. ²
- Since 2011, there has been a 31% increase in the number of women aged 55+ experiencing homelessness. ¹
- Women are more likely to be in casual or low-paid employment and to have spent time out of the workforce caring for children.
- This means that older women, particularly singles, often have lower savings and are therefore more vulnerable to housing stress in retirement.

■ **Where do they stay?** ¹



References:

1. ABS Census, Estimating Homelessness, 2016, cat no. 2049.0
2. ABS Census, unpublished data, The Ageing on the Edge Project, Housing for the Aged Action Group; Centre for Housing and Urban Planning, The University of Adelaide