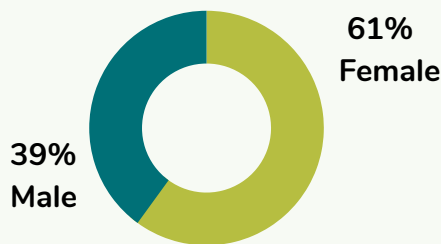


Women and Homelessness

Council to Homeless Persons, Updated January 2019

- While more males were recorded as experiencing homelessness on Census night, 61% of people supported by specialist homelessness services are female ²



People supported by specialist homelessness services 2017-18

- All Australians are affected by the shortage of affordable rental housing, but women may be more at risk than men. One of the main reasons for this is gender-based economic / financial inequality. Overall, women earn less on average than men, in both full-time and part-time occupations. ³
- Women are also more likely to take leave from the workforce (due to caring responsibilities) and to return to paid employment on a part-time or casual basis. 69% of part-time workers in Australia are women. ⁴ Women reliant on part-time wages/salaries or single parenting payments are particularly vulnerable to homelessness. According to the November 2018 Rental Affordability Index, a rental property in any major Australian city costs a single mother working part-time between 40-70% of her income. ⁷

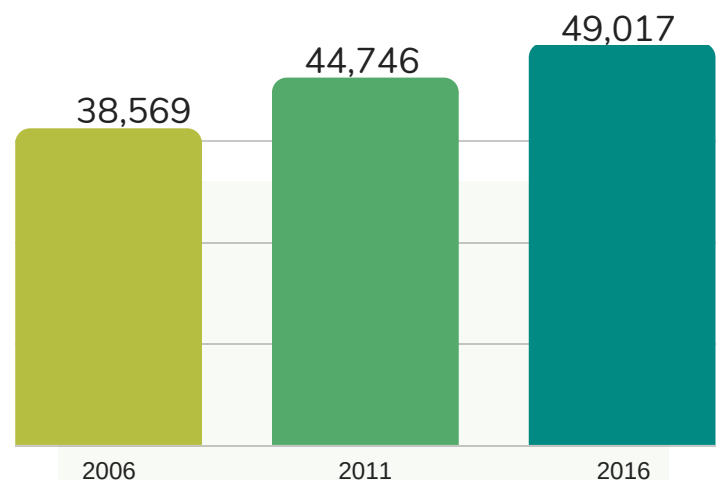


■ **49,017**

women were recorded to be experiencing homelessness homeless on Census night in Australia in 2016 ¹



- Every day Australian specialist homelessness services turn away 155 women because of a lack of resources and affordable housing ²



- Women's homelessness rose **27%** between 2006-2016 ¹

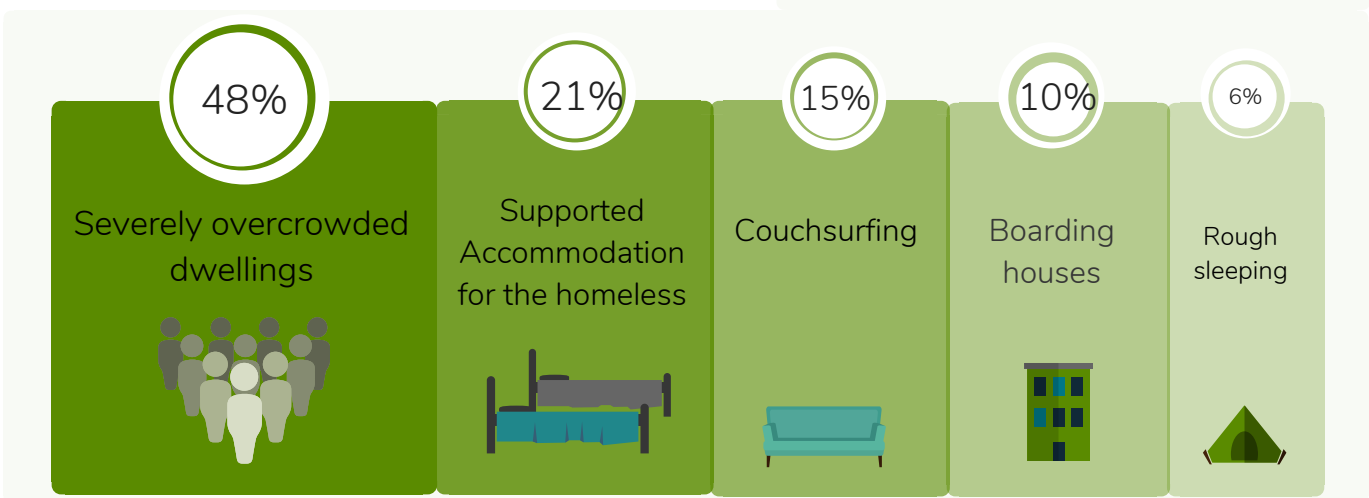
Number of women experiencing homelessness, 2006-2016

- Domestic and family violence is the number one reason women become homeless in Australia. 40% of female clients cite it as the main reason for seeking homelessness assistance.⁶
- Women are more likely to be victims of domestic and family violence.⁵ 1 in 6 Australian women over the age of 15 have experienced physical, psychological and/or sexual violence at the hands of a current or former partner.⁵ Due to the threat to their safety, many of these women (and children) are forced to, or make the decision to leave their home.
- Some cohorts of women are more likely to experience homelessness than others. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women, women with a disability, women who are culturally and linguistically diverse and women with a mental illness are all more vulnerable to homelessness.

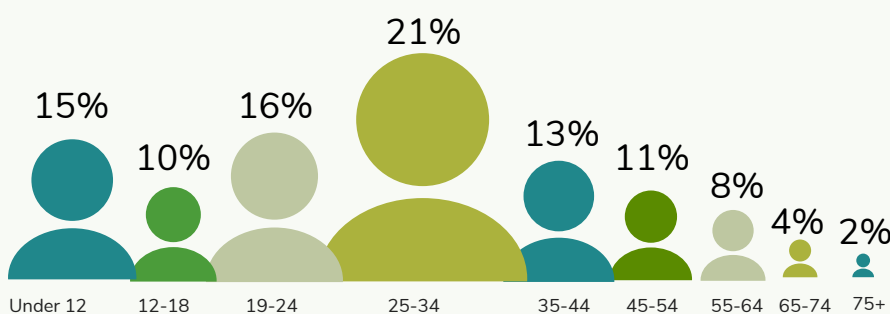
■ Why are they experiencing homelessness?

- 40% Escaping family violence
- 35% Housing crisis
- 10% Money/income/employment issues
- 5% Relationship/family breakdowns
- 2% Mental or physical illness
- >1% Problematic drug/alcohol use
- 9% Other⁶

■ Where do they stay?¹



■ How old are they?



- Women aged 25-34 are the most likely age group to experience homelessness.¹
- Women over 55 years are the fastest growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.¹

References

1. ABS Census, Estimating Homelessness, 2016, cat no. 2049.0
2. AIHW, Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, 2017-18, cat. no. HOU 299
3. Gender Equity Insights, Workplace Gender Equality Agency, 2018
4. ABS, Labour Force, Australia, July 2018, cat. no. 6202.0
5. ABS, Personal Safety Survey 2016, cat. no. 4906.0
6. CHP analysis of AIHW, Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, 2017-18
7. SGS Economics and Planning, Rental Affordability: Index Key Findings, November 2018