

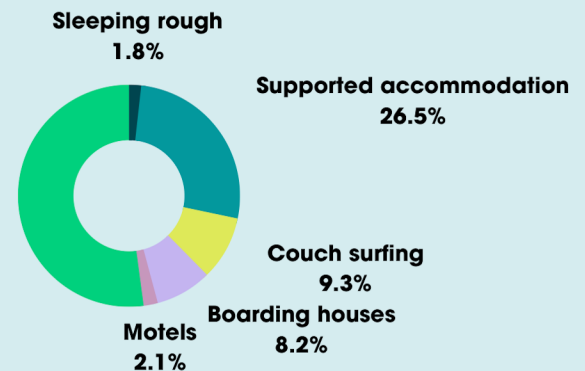
Child and Youth Homelessness

On any night

47,871 children and young people have no home (aged 0-24)

They are homeless in different environments including:

Severely overcrowded housing
52.1%



Each year

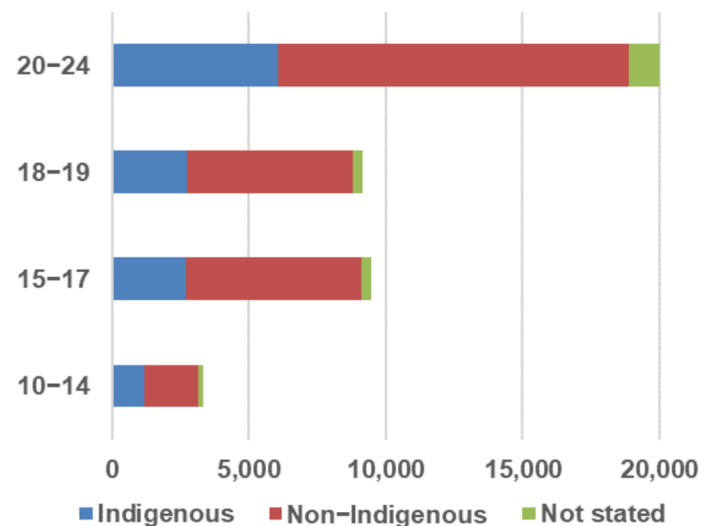
42,615 children and young people unaccompanied by a parent or guardian seek help from homelessness services (aged 10-24)

AIHW Specialist homelessness services collection data cubes: SHSC demographics

Unaccompanied homeless children and young people

Age group	Boys and young men	Girls and young women
10-14	1,525	1,790
15-17	3,535	6,078
18-24	9,961	19,726

30% of unaccompanied homeless children and young people are Indigenous



AIHW Specialist homelessness services collection data cubes: SHSC demographics

Child and Youth Homelessness

Causes of unaccompanied child and youth homelessness

Children and young people leave home because they don't feel safe or their parents can't provide a home for them.

They often have traumatic experiences prior to becoming homeless including:

- domestic and family violence
- physical and emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- homophobia and transphobia
- neglect and abandonment
- and/or poverty

Risks

Children who are homeless alone often have no money for food, cannot access health care, and are disconnected from school.

Homeless children and young people commonly experience violent victimisation, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse and exploitation.

They are likely to be experiencing poor sleep, psychological distress and physical illness.

Being homeless as a child significantly increases the chance of adult homelessness.

Solutions to unaccompanied child homelessness

Children without homes need effective guardianship and care.

Specialist responses are also needed to prevent children becoming homeless, including preventive family support, therapeutic programs for children at risk, and education-based screening.

Solutions to youth homelessness

Young people without homes need specialist support to resolve family conflict and find a safe and supportive home.

If they cannot safely return home they need adequate income, safe and affordable housing, and developmentally appropriate support to remain connected to education, recover from trauma, and work towards achieving their goals.

The need for a plan to end child and youth homelessness

Many of the causes and solutions to child and youth homelessness are different to those relevant to adult homelessness. Without a specific focus on the specific changes and programs needed, opportunities to meet the particular needs of children and young people are too often missed or minimised.