

Homeless in Melbourne

Counting the homeless

On Census night in 2001, an estimated 14,072 people in the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) were classified as homeless. In the City Core, which includes Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip Local Government Areas (LGAs), the majority of homeless were staying in boarding houses (59%), while in all other areas the majority were staying with friends or family. The greater availability of city boarding house accommodation attracts homeless populations to the city area. The largest proportion of homeless people sleeping in improvised dwellings or 'sleeping rough' was in the Frankston-Dandenong Corridor (10% or 158 people), which had a total homeless population of 1,587. However, Melbourne's City Core had the largest number of homeless people sleeping rough (213 people).

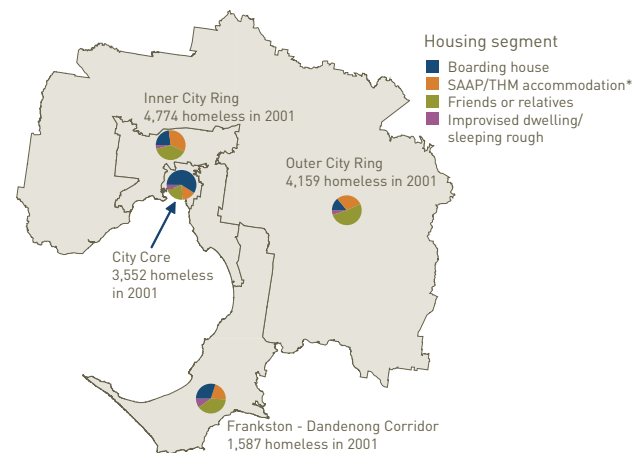
Homeless housing segments

The ABS separates the Melbourne Statistical Division into four regions with regard to homelessness - City Core (Melbourne, Port Phillip and Yarra LGAs); Inner City Ring (Western Melbourne, Moreland, Northern Middle Melbourne, Boroondara and Southern Melbourne subdivisions); Outer City Ring (Melton-Wyndham, Hume City, Northern Outer Melbourne, Eastern Middle Melbourne, Eastern Outer Melbourne, Yarra Ranges Shire Part A and South Eastern Outer Melbourne); and the Frankston-Dandenong Corridor (Greater Dandenong, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula).

Note: Homeless as defined by the ABS falls into three categories - 'primary', 'secondary' and 'tertiary' homelessness. Primary homelessness includes all people without 'conventional accommodation'. Secondary homelessness includes people who move frequently from one form of temporary shelter to another. It also includes people staying in boarding houses on a short-term basis, operationally defined as 12 weeks or less. Tertiary homelessness refers to people who live in boarding houses on a medium to long-term basis, operationally defined as 13 weeks or longer. They are homeless because their accommodation situation is below the minimum community standard.

1 Number of homeless and the housing segment they live in

Homeless regions, 2001



* Refers to people housed in temporary accommodation funded by the government programs, the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and Transitional Housing Manager (THM) scheme

Homeless in caravan parks

The ABS classifies residents of caravan parks who state they are at their usual address and where no-one in the dwelling had full-time employment as 'marginal residents of caravan parks'. Workers in emergency accommodation sometimes refer people to caravan parks when there are no beds available.

3 Marginal residents of caravan parks

Homeless regions, 2001

Number of marginal residents of caravan parks				
City Core	Inner City Ring	Frankston-Dandenong	Outer City Ring	Total
0	381	589	407	1,377

2 Number of people within different segments of the homeless population

Homeless regions, 2001

	Number of people in different segments of the homeless population, Melbourne				
	City Core (total number =3,552)	Inner City Ring (total number =4,774)	Frankston-Dandenong (total number =1,587)	Outer City Ring (total number =4,159)	Total (number =14,072)
	%	%	%	%	%
Boarding house	59	23	30	14	30
SAAP/THM *	15	34	21	29	27
Friends/relatives	20	39	39	52	38
Improved dwell/Sleepers rough	6	4	10	5	5
	100	100	100	100	100
Proportion and rate per 10,000 of the population, Melbourne					
Rate	149	36	44	29	42
Per cent	25.2	33.9	11.3	29.6	100.0