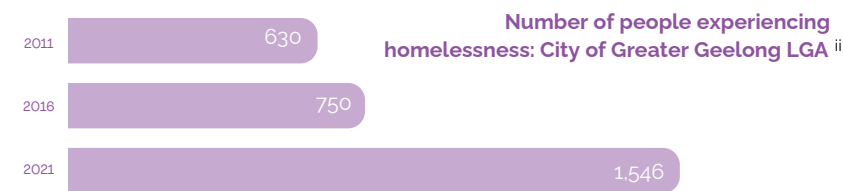


HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE DATA SNAPSHOT

When people think of homelessness, they often think of people sleeping rough or those without a house to live in. The reality is that homelessness is much more complex. To address homelessness, we need a coordinated response that provides wrap around support to ensure that when homelessness occurs, it is **rare**, **brief** and **non-recurring**.

“Reasons for homelessness include family violence, housing affordability and stress, financial difficulties, relationship issues, and mental ill-health”

The number of people experiencing homelessness has **doubled** from 2016 to 2021. This equates to 57 out of every 10,000 people, compared to the Victorian average of 35ⁱ



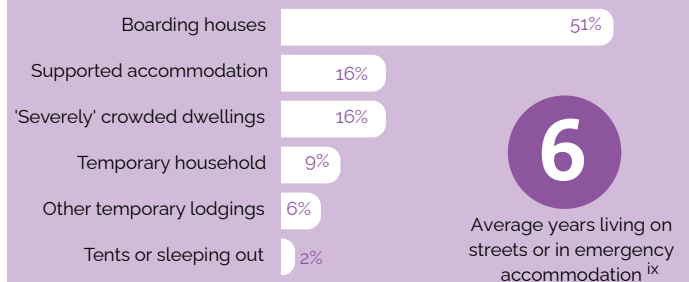
Service demand

Whilst data from the Census provides a critical snapshot it is often considered an inadequate reflection of the scale and complexity of homelessness. Data from local frontline services paint a much more accurate and somber picture.



Types of homelessness

Types of homelessness experienced in Greater Geelong (2021)^{viii}



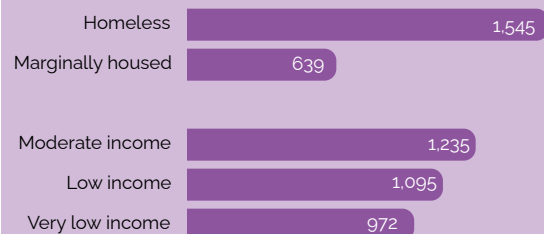
Affordable housing



Housing stress is when households pay more than 30% of their income towards housing costs. Of the 25,806 Geelong based households who rent privately **26% are in rental stress**^x



5.3% of all Geelong households are **in need of affordable housing**, compared to 4.5% for Regional Victoria. While many of these residents are considered homeless, many are classed as **moderate income** households^{xii}



Domestic & family violence^{xiii}

As housing becomes even less affordable, the numbers of **women experiencing homelessness continues to rise**, with domestic and family violence (DFV) being the main reason women and children leave their homes

38%

of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) clients have experienced DFV

75%

of SHS DFV clients were women & girls

Sources:
i. ABS Census data cited in email communication from CoGG Community Life department, March 2023
ii. ABS (2021). Estimating Homelessness: 2021 Census. Available [here](#)
iii. Barwon South West Homelessness Network (2023) Submission to the 10 Year National Housing and Homelessness Plan. Available [here](#)
iv. Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (2024). Applications on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR). Available [here](#)
v, vi, & viii Council to Homeless Persons (2024). Employed & At Risk: The new face of homelessness in Victoria. Available [here](#)
viii. ABS (2021) Census data compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions). Available [here](#)
ix. Australian Version 3 VI-SPDAT Reporting Geelong (2024). Available [here](#)
x. ABS (2021) Census data for the Greater Geelong LGA cited in Barwon South West Homelessness Network Submission to the 10 Year National Housing and Homelessness Plan 2023. Available [here](#)
xi, xii. ABS (2021) Census data compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions). Available [here](#)
xiii. AHURI (2024) What are the real costs of Australia's housing crisis for women? Available [here](#)

* Households described as being on a very low income are an aggregate of households earning less than 50% of Regional Victoria median income for that household type.