# ESTIMATING Homelessness

### IN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

**2021 CENSUS TOPIC PAPER** 

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### Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
DCJ	Department of Communities and Justice
GWS	Greater Western Sydney
HSRG	Homelessness Statistics Reference Group
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
OPGP	'Homelessness operational groups' variable
SHS	Specialist Homelessness Services
WESTIR	Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service



### Definition of terms and formulas used

- **Percentage changes** refer to differences in quantities or values over time. It is computed by dividing the difference between the final and initial values by the initial value.
- **Percentage-point changes** refer to the differences between the final and initial percentages.
- **Persons experiencing homelessness** include people living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out, people living in supported accommodation for the homeless, people staying temporarily with other households, people living in boarding houses, people in other temporary lodgings, and people living in 'severely' crowded dwellings.<sup>1</sup>
- **Persons marginally housed** include people living in other crowded dwellings, people in other improvised dwellings, and people marginally housed in caravan parks.<sup>2</sup>
- **Place of enumeration** is the geographic area where a person was counted on Census Night (10 August 2021).<sup>3</sup>
- Place of usual residence is the geographic area in which a person usually lives.<sup>4</sup>
- The **rate of homelessness** is the number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 persons of the usual resident population.<sup>5</sup>
- The **rate of marginal housing** is the number of people marginally housed per 10,000 persons of the usual resident population.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023, April 27). *Estimating Homelessness: Census methodology, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/estimating-homelessness-census-methodology/2021#:~:text=Rates%20per%2010%2C000,and%20offshore%20regions</u>.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023, April 27). *Estimating Homelessness: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022, June 28). Comparing Place of enumeration with Place of usual residence | Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/comparing-place-enumeration-place-usual-residence</u>
 <sup>4</sup> Ibid.

### **Executive summary**

Homelessness remains a global issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Australia, financial factors are a huge driver, for instance, poverty, unemployment, and housing unaffordability; however, social causes, such as family and domestic violence, health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, and relationship breakdowns within the home, also contribute to short-term or ongoing homelessness.<sup>6</sup> The overall number of persons experiencing homelessness in New South Wales (NSW) decreased by 7.2% from the 2016 Census to the 2021 Census. However, the nature of this social issue is changing.<sup>7</sup> For instance, due to the housing crisis, the demand for homelessness services has increased, with women, children, and Indigenous people being overly represented among those needing support.<sup>8</sup> Within NSW in 2022-23, there were 58 out of 128 NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs) where more people received Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) than the year before.<sup>9</sup>

Against this backdrop, this paper aims to understand the nature of this social issue within the region. It provides key demographic information about persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed. It also presents information about the demand for SHS. This paper sources data from the 'Estimating Homelessness' dataset from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing through TableBuilder Pro and data from the SHS Collection accessed through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The key findings of this paper are shown in Table 1 (pages 11-12).

<sup>7</sup> NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice. (n.d.). *Our homelessness programs*. NSW Government Communities & Justice. Retrieved 15 October 2024, from

https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/homelessness-services/our-programs

 <sup>8</sup> Watson, K. (2024, July 31). The newest victims of Australia's homelessness crisis. *BBC*. <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn09g9j143no</u>
 <sup>9</sup> Al Nashar, N. (2024, February 13). Homelessness 'crisis' rises as much as 127pc in som

<sup>9</sup> Al Nashar, N. (2024, February 13). Homelessness 'crisis' rises as much as 127pc in some areas of NSW. *ABC News*. <u>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-13/nsw-homelessness-rise-figures/103460374</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Salvation Army Australia. (n.d.). *Why are people homeless*. The Salvation Army; The Salvation Army Australia. Retrieved 15 October 2024, from <a href="https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-services/homelessness-services/why-are-people-homeless/">https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-services/homelessness-services/why-are-people-homeless/</a>

#### TABLE 1. KEY FINDINGS

	'Estimating Homelessness' data	a, 2021 Census
Section	Key findings	
Section	Persons experiencing homelessness	Persons marginally housed
Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney (GWS)	In the 2021 Census, a total of 12,353 people were estimated to be experiencing homelessness in GWS, a decrease of -12.7% from 14,147 in the 2016 Census.	There were 17,260 people estimated to be marginally housed in GWS. This is a decrease of -6.0% from 18,352 in the 2016 Census.
Demographics	Of all persons experiencing homelessness in GWS in 2021…	Of all persons marginally housed in GWS in 2021…
Sex	There were more males (56.0%, 6,921) than females (44.0%, 5,432).	There were more males (53.1%, 9,184) than females (46.8%, 8,082).
Age	More than four in ten (43.0%, 5,314) were aged 0-24, making this the most common age group among persons experiencing homelessness.	Close to five in ten (48.4%, 8,364) persons within this cohort were aged 0- 24, making this the most common age group among persons marginally housed.
Indigenous status		
Cultural diversity	Close to half (49.6%, 6,131) were born overseas. Almost six in ten (57.8%, 7,147) used a language other than English at home. A majority (56.1%, 6,930) were Australian citizens.	More than half (56.5%, 9,767) were born overseas. More than seven in ten (70.7%, 12,221) used a language other than English. 63.9% (11,037) were Australian citizens.
Disability <sup>10</sup>	<b>y<sup>10</sup></b> 4.5% (561) had a disability. 5.0% (857) had a disability.	
Long-term health conditions <sup>11</sup>	14.8% (1,831) had at least one of the selected long-term health conditions.	13.6% (2,347) had at least one of the selected long-term health conditions.
Labour force status		
Weekly personal income	The most common weekly income range for GWS was \$500-\$900, accounting for 26.1% (2,528) of persons experiencing homelessness in GWS aged 15 and over.	The most common weekly income range for GWS was \$500-\$900, accounting for 30.2% (3,956) of persons experiencing homelessness in GWS aged 15 and over.
Educational attainment	The most common level of highest educational attainment was 'Secondary Education – Years 10 and above' among persons experiencing homelessness in GWS aged 15 and over (39.4%, 3,823).	The most common level of highest educational attainment was 'Secondary Education – Years 10 and above' among persons marginally housed in GWS aged 15 and over (44.6%, 5,843).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The ABS defines disability based on a profound or severe core activity limitation. According to the ABS, 'People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), and old age'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> These selected conditions are arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), and stroke.



5	Special Homelessness Services (SHS) Collection data, 2023-24
Section	Key findings
Number of Special Homelessness Services clients <sup>12</sup>	<ul> <li>In 2023-24, there were a total of 14,971 SHS clients residing in GWS. This was an increase from 2021-22 (14,897) but a decrease from 2022-23 (15,309).</li> <li>Blacktown (2,613), Penrith (2,589), and Campbelltown (2,376) recorded the highest numbers of SHS clients among GWS LGAs in 2023-24.</li> <li>Of the four GWS LGAs that recorded 1-year percentage-increases from 2022-23 to 2023-24, Parramatta (+17.9%) and Penrith (+15.0%) recorded the highest values.</li> <li>Penrith (+28.6%), The Hills Shire (+16.5%), and Parramatta (+10.8%) recorded the highest values among the six LGAs with 5-year percentage-increases from 2018-19 to 2023-24.</li> <li>The GWS region overall recorded decreases in its 1-year and 5-year percentage changes (-2.2% and -2.5%, respectively).</li> </ul>
Types of services accessed	<ul> <li>The main reasons for seeking assistance among clients in NSW (67,894) were domestic and family violence (22.6%, 15,366), housing crisis (21.6%, 14,681), financial difficulties (9.7%, 6,599), housing affordability stress (9.6%, 6,499), inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (8.5%, 5,763), and relationship/family breakdown (6.4%, 4,337).</li> <li>General assistance (95.9%, 65,123), long-term accommodation (48.5%, 32,950), short-term accommodation (41.1%, 27,902), and medium-term accommodation (37.3%, 25,349) were the most commonly reported types of services needed by NSW clients in 2023-24.</li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> A client is 'any person who receives a service from a SHS agency with the intention of responding to, or preventing, homelessness' and 'can be of any age, as long as they receive a direct service from a SHS agency'. Please refer to this source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Manual*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/43f4e03d-d229-46ae-938a-b508aff89e26/shs-collection-manual-2023.pdf.aspx</u>, p. 5



### Introduction

Homelessness remains a global issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Australia, financial factors are a huge driver, for instance, poverty, unemployment, and housing unaffordability; however, social causes, such as family and domestic violence, health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, and relationship breakdowns within the home, also contribute to short-term or ongoing homelessness.<sup>13</sup> Social housing supply has declined in terms of its share of all housing, and private sector rents have increased considerably against earnings growth.<sup>14</sup> This is intensified by national rental vacancy rates falling drastically in recent years to 1.0%.<sup>15</sup> As explained in the *Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024,* 'The combination of reduced affordability and low vacancy rates has exacerbated the risk of homelessness for low income and vulnerable households over this period'.<sup>16</sup>

The overall number of persons experiencing homelessness in New South Wales (NSW) decreased by 7.2% from the 2016 Census to the 2021 Census; however, the nature of this social issue is changing.<sup>17</sup> For instance, due to the housing crisis, the demand for homelessness services has increased, with women, children, and Indigenous people being overly represented among those needing support.<sup>18</sup> More employed persons have been seeking homelessness services in the five years to 2022-23.<sup>19</sup> Within NSW in 2022-23, there were 58 out of 128 NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs) where more people received Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) than the year before.<sup>20</sup> Similarly, there has been an increase in clients with no previous service history in recent years, indicating that a broader portion of the population is being affected by homelessness.<sup>21</sup>

Against this backdrop, it is crucial to investigate homelessness in GWS. This paper, therefore, aims to understand the nature of this social issue within the region. It provides key demographic information about persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed. It also presents information about the demand for SHS.

https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/homelessness-services/our-programs

<sup>18</sup> Watson, K. (2024, July 31). The newest victims of Australia's homelessness crisis. BBC. <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn09g9j143no</u>

<sup>19</sup> Pawson, H., Parsell, C., Clarke, A., Moore, J., Hartley, C., Aminpour, F., & Eagles, K. (2024). *Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024*. UNSW City Futures Research Centre.

https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/australian-homelessness-monitor-2024/, p. 13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The Salvation Army Australia. (n.d.). *Why are people homeless*. The Salvation Army; The Salvation Army Australia. Retrieved 15 October 2024, from <a href="https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-services/homelessness-services/why-are-people-homeless/">https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-services/homelessness-services/why-are-people-homeless/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Pawson, H., Parsell, C., Clarke, A., Moore, J., Hartley, C., Aminpour, F., & Eagles, K. (2024). *Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024*. UNSW City Futures Research Centre.

https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/australian-homelessness-monitor-2024/, p. 9 <sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice. (n.d.). *Our homelessness programs*. NSW Government Communities & Justice. Retrieved 15 October 2024, from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Al Nashar, N. (2024, February 13). Homelessness 'crisis' rises as much as 127pc in some areas of NSW. ABC News. <u>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-13/nsw-homelessness-rise-figures/103460374</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Pawson, H., Parsell, C., Clarke, A., Moore, J., Hartley, C., Aminpour, F., & Eagles, K. (2024). Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024. UNSW City Futures Research Centre. <u>https://cityfutures.ada.unsw.edu.au/australian-homelessness-monitor-2024/</u>, p. 13

The introductory section offers an overview of the paper's data sources, ABS' methodology for estimating homelessness, geographical regions, and other considerations and limitations. The succeeding sections present overall estimates for persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed, as well as key demographic information about these populations in GWS. These sections are then followed by a discussion of SHS clients by LGA and types of support services accessed by clients in NSW. This paper concludes with key implications and considerations for local agencies and service providers.

#### Data sources

This paper sources data from the 'Estimating Homelessness' dataset from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing through TableBuilder Pro. To gain a more holistic understanding of homelessness, it also uses data from the SHS Collection accessed through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) for 2023-24. It records the number of distinct clients, specifically people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, supported by non-government organisations, including agencies providing generalist or specialist services.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Estimating homelessness in the ABS Census**

#### Definitions of homelessness

The ABS' statistical definition of homelessness is as follows:

When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.<sup>23</sup>

This definition was developed in 2012 as advised by the Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG).<sup>24</sup> It was later used to generate 'prevalence estimates of homelessness from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, and from household surveys such as the General Social Survey, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, Personal Safety Survey, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, and other surveys, as appropriate'.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023, April 27). *Estimating Homelessness: Census methodology, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/estimating-homelessness-census-methodology/2021</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, June 27). *Homelessness services: Overview*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-services/overview</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2012, September 4). *4922.0—Information Paper—A Statistical Definition of Homelessness*, *2012—HOMELESSNESS STAT/STICS*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4922.0Main%20Features22012?opendocument&tabna me=Summary&prodno=4922.0&issue=2012&num=&view=</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ibid.

The ABS has announced that it will review its statistical definition of homelessness based on recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into homelessness in 2020 and 2021. These recommendations were focused on 'the circumstances in which people living in severely crowded dwellings and boarding houses should be categorised as homeless'.<sup>26</sup>

Lawton, in the WESTIR 2016 Census Paper *Estimating Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney*, provides a succinct overview of the cultural and historical underpinnings of the definitions of homelessness.<sup>27</sup>

The same background applies to the 2021 Census; however, the ABS has made improvements to enhance the quality of its estimates. This includes increasing the capacity of the online household form to receive responses from up to 10 people in 2016 to 25 people in 2021, editing the 'front of form' of the questionnaire, and revising the wording of certain sections to capture persons experiencing homelessness and marginal housing.<sup>28</sup> The ABS also used administrative lists from governments and homeless service providers.<sup>29</sup> In addition, a Homelessness Enumeration Strategy was implemented to 'ensure that all people experiencing homelessness could participate in the Census'.<sup>30</sup>

#### Homelessness operational groups

The six operational groups used by the ABS to estimate persons experiencing homelessness are:

- people living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
- people living in supported accommodation for the homeless
- people staying temporarily with other households
- people living in boarding houses
- people in other temporary lodgings
- people living in 'severely' crowded dwellings.<sup>31</sup>

The ABS also compiles data and estimates for persons marginally housed but may not be considered homeless based on the ABS' statistical definition. These groups are:

- people living in other crowded dwellings
- people in other improvised dwellings
- people marginally housed in caravan parks.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023, April 27). *Estimating Homelessness: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics.* Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Ibid.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Lawton, A. (2018). Estimating Homelessness In Greater Western Sydney (2016 Census Topic Papers).
 WESTIR Ltd. <u>https://www.westir.org.au/census/estimating-homelessness-in-greater-western-sydney-july-2018/</u>, p. 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023, April 27). Estimating Homelessness: Census methodology, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/estimating-homelessness-census-methodology/2021</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ibid.

Data on homelessness estimates are recorded within the 'Homelessness operational groups' or OPGP variable, which 'records the operational group of persons estimated to be homeless or marginally housed on Census Night'.<sup>33</sup>

#### Limitations with the ABS' methodology

As discussed above, the Census does not include a question that explicitly asks whether a person is homeless or not during Census night. Instead, the ABS uses a range of variables to estimate homelessness. Lawton summarises this well in the WESTIR 2016 Census Paper *Estimating Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney*, stating:

In other words, there is no single variable in the Census that directly measures homelessness. Therefore, the suite of variables used to estimate homelessness must be interpreted as proxies for likely, not definite, homelessness. As with any estimate, there is the potential to under- or over-estimate homelessness. This is true especially for certain groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for whom there is a known likely undercount in the Census.<sup>34</sup>

#### **Geographical regions**

Greater Western Sydney (GWS) consists of the following 13 LGAs (see Map 1):

- Blacktown
- Blue Mountains
- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Canterbury-Bankstown
- Cumberland
- Fairfield

- HawkesburyLiverpool
- Liverpool
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- The Hills Shire
- Wollondilly

GWS is compared with data for Greater Sydney, districts under the Department of

- Communities and Justice (DCJ), the Rest of New South Wales (NSW) and NSW:
  Greater Sydney, the Rest of NSW, and NSW are compiled from ABS boundaries.
  - **DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains District** is made up of the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow, and Penrith LGAs.
  - **DCJ South Western Sydney District** is made up of Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Wingecarribee, and Wollondilly LGAs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Lawton, A. (2018). Estimating Homelessness In Greater Western Sydney (2016 Census Topic Papers). WESTIR Ltd. <u>https://www.westir.org.au/census/estimating-homelessness-in-greater-western-sydney-july-2018/</u>, p. 4



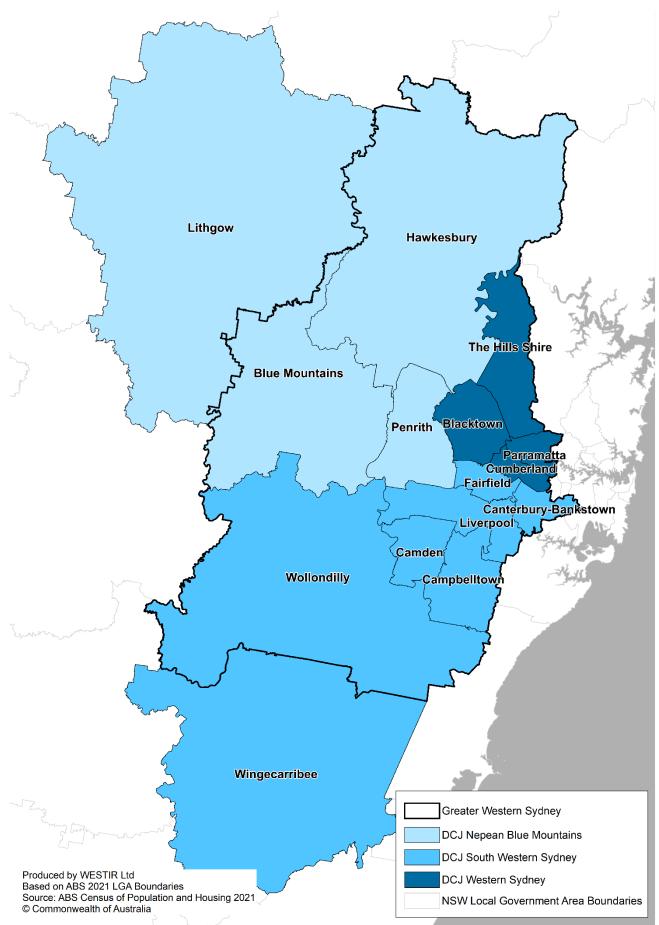
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Homelessness operational groups (OPGP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/housing/homelessness-operational-groups-opgp</u>

• **DCJ Western Sydney District** is made up of Blacktown, Cumberland, Parramatta, and The Hills Shire LGAs.

This paper also covers two additional LGAs, Lithgow and Wingecarribee, which are not included in GWS totals. However, Lithgow and Wingecarribee fall within the funding boundaries of the DCJ Districts of the Nepean Blue Mountains and South Western Sydney, respectively. These LGAs were included in their respective districts' totals.



MAP 1. REGIONS





#### Other considerations and limitations

#### Timeliness of the Census data

While the 2021 Census is the most recent and widely used data source for largescale, comprehensive information on the demographic, economic, social, and cultural composition of Australia, it has been more than three years since the data was collected, which was on 10 August 2021. This means that additional care must be taken when interpreting the counts and trends presented in this report. To complement ABS estimates with more recent data sources, this report has included 2023-24 data from the SHS Collection of the AIHW.

#### Place of enumeration and place of usual residence

The place of enumeration is the geographic area where a person was counted on Census Night, while the place of usual residence is the geographic area in which a person usually lives.<sup>35</sup> Tables in this paper are based on the place of enumeration, due to the nature of homelessness and marginal housing, unless stated otherwise.

#### ABS confidentiality measures and impact on percentages

The ABS employs techniques to ensure the confidentiality of data. This randomisation process, called perturbation, is 'considered to be the best technique for avoiding the release of identifiable data while maximising the range of information that can be released'.<sup>36</sup> This technique involves introducing small random errors that may result in small increases or decreases in the numbers. This seeks to reduce the risk of identifying individuals in Census statistics, particularly for smaller counts. Overall, these adjustments may cause totals for each characteristic and geographic area to differ from table to table and the values from one WESTIR Census report to another. Total values may also vary slightly across tables and sections due to the availability of data. Another important implication is that percentages may not sum to 100%.

### High proportions of non-responses among persons experiencing homelessness

Across most variables incorporated in this paper, there were high proportions of persons experiencing homelessness falling into the 'Not stated' categories, indicating a non-response. Proportions ranged from 8.6% (see Indigenous status) to 16.7% (see Educational attainment). Non-response was also more likely to occur among persons experiencing homelessness than persons marginally housed. Persons within these cohorts also may or may not choose to participate in the Census for a range of reasons, which may potentially cause understatement in the data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022, June 28). *How the data is processed | Australian Bureau of Statistics.* Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-</u> methodology/2021/how-data-processed



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022, June 28). *Comparing Place of enumeration with Place of usual residence | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/comparing-place-enumeration-place-usual-residence</u>

### Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney

#### Persons experiencing homelessness

In the 2021 Census, a total of 12,353 people were estimated to be experiencing homelessness in GWS. This figure decreased by -12.7% from 14,147 in the 2016 Census (see Figure 2, Appendix 1.1, and Appendix 1.2).

People living in 'severely' crowded dwellings still accounted for more than a majority of this cohort (69.3%, 8,555), with the proportion of persons experiencing homelessness who were in this category increasing slightly from 2016 to 2021 (66.4%, 9,398 to 69.3%, 8,555) (see Figure 1 and Appendix 1.1). Living in boarding houses (5.2%, 734 to 9.1%, 1,121) and other temporary lodgings (0.2%, 22 to 1.8%, 220) among people experiencing homelessness became slightly more common in 2021 than in 2016.

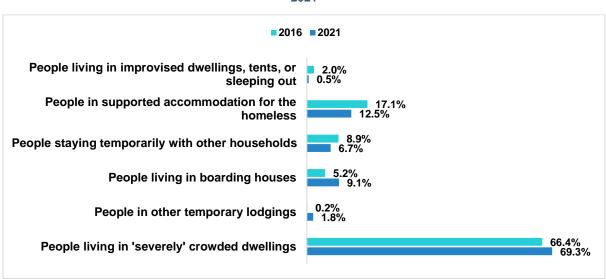


FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF HOMELESS OPERATIONAL GROUPS, GWS, 2016 AND 2021

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-</u> census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx

GWS LGAs with the highest counts were Canterbury-Bankstown (2,706), Cumberland (2,216), and Blacktown (1,604). Of the three DCJ Districts in GWS, South Western Sydney (6,437) had the highest number of persons experiencing homelessness. These LGAs and their respective counts are shown in Map 2.

The trend in GWS, wherein the total number of persons experiencing homelessness decreased from 2016 to 2021, was also observed in Greater Sydney (-13.3%, 28,995 to 25,129) and NSW (-7.2%, 37,692 to 34,982) (see Figure 2). The Rest of NSW, on the other hand, had a percentage-increase in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness of +13.0% (8,703 to 9,838) between the Censuses. All three DCJ Districts in GWS also witnessed percentage-decreases in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness, with Western Sydney recording the highest percentage-decrease (-17.9%, 5,901 to 4,843).

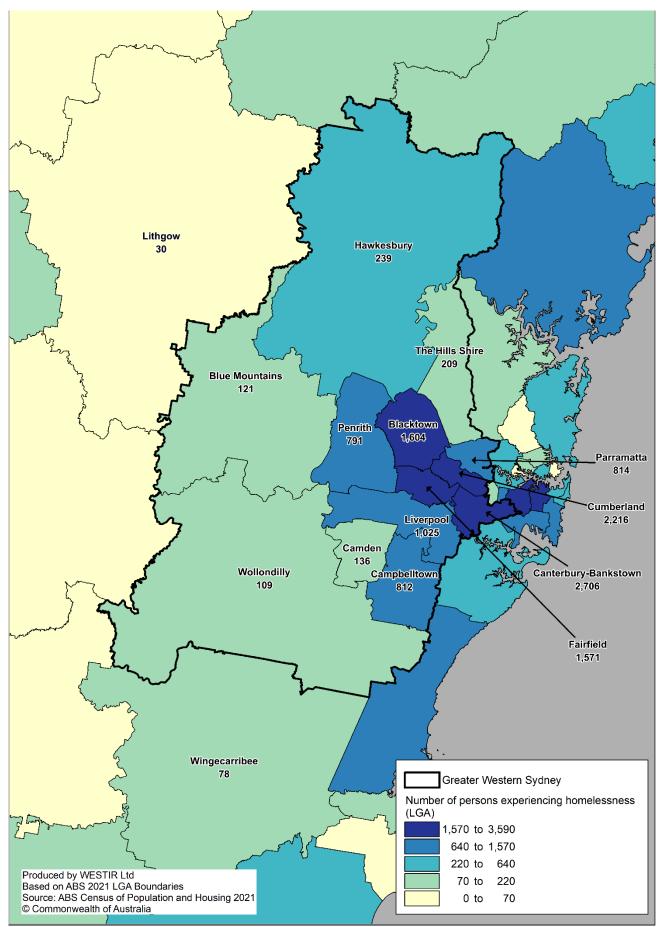


Eight out of the thirteen GWS LGAs recorded percentage-decreases in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness, with Fairfield (-29.4%, 2,226 to 1,571), Cumberland (-29.2%, 3,129 to 2,216), and the Blue Mountains (-28.8%, 170 to 121) recording the highest values.

Five remaining LGAs recorded percentage-increases. Wollondilly recorded the highest value at +67.7% (65 to 109). It is also important to note that Wollondilly was the least populous GWS LGA in 2016 (48,520) and 2021 (53,961) based on the place of usual residence. Camden followed Wollondilly, with a percentage-increase of +41.7% (96 to 136). Three LGAs, Canterbury-Bankstown (+4.8%, 2,582 to 2,706), Blacktown (+4.6%, 1,534 to 1,604), and Hawkesbury (+3.5%, 231 to 239), ranked third to fifth, but recorded much lower rates than Wollondilly and Camden.

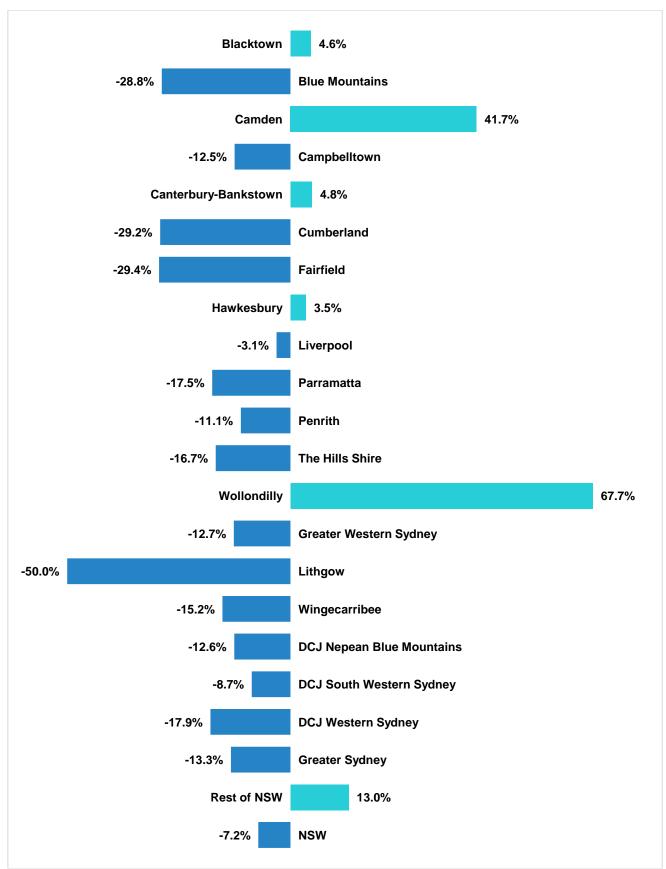


MAP 2. NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, GWS, 2021





#### FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE CHANGES, TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2016 TO 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx



The rate of homelessness in GWS, computed as the number of persons experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people (usual residents), was 47.4 for 2021 (see Figure 3 and Appendix 1.2). This means that, for every 10,000 people who usually reside in GWS, there were 47.4 persons experiencing homelessness. GWS's rate in 2021 was lower than Greater Sydney's (48.0) but higher than the Rest of NSW's (34.8) and NSW's (43.3).

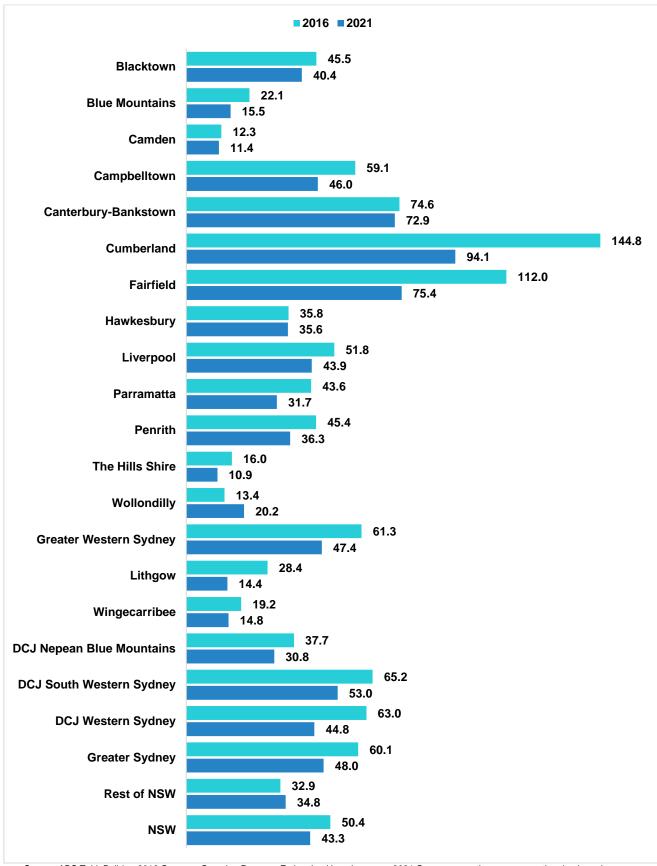
From 2016 to 2021, the rates of homelessness generally decreased. This trend was observed in GWS (61.3 to 47.4), Greater Sydney (60.1 to 48.0), and NSW (50.4 to 43.3) (see Figure 3). The same was found for the three DCJ Districts in GWS, which are the Nepean Blue Mountains (37.7 to 30.8), South Western Sydney (65.2 to 53.0), and Western Sydney (63.0 to 44.8). However, the rate of homelessness increased marginally for the Rest of NSW (32.9 to 34.8).

Rates of homelessness varied widely across the 13 GWS LGAs, from 10.9 (The Hills Shire) to 94.1 (Cumberland). Cumberland (94.1), Fairfield (75.4), and Canterbury-Bankstown (72.9) recorded the highest rates for 2021. These three LGAs also had the highest values in 2016, in the same order. GWS LGAs and their respective rates are shown in Map 3. Map 4 also illustrates rates of homelessness for the broader Greater Sydney region. It puts an emphasis on the Inner West (139.2) and Sydney (169.6) LGAs which both recorded rates within the highest range (92 to 290), alongside Cumberland (94.1).

Almost all GWS LGAs, with the exception of Wollondilly, witnessed a decrease in homelessness rates. The number of persons experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people (usual residents) in Wollondilly increased from 13.4 in 2016 to 20.2 in 2021. As mentioned previously, Wollondilly also had the highest percentage-increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness from 2016 to 2021 (see Figure 2).



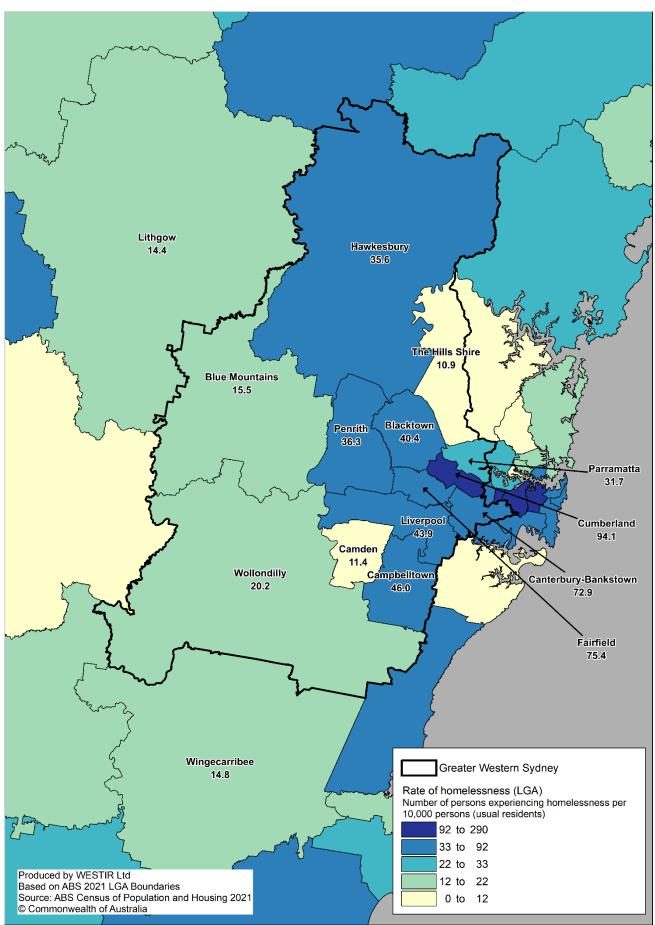
#### FIGURE 3. RATES OF HOMELESSNESS, NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PER 10,000 PEOPLE (USUAL RESIDENTS), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2016 AND 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do06\_2021.xlsx</a>

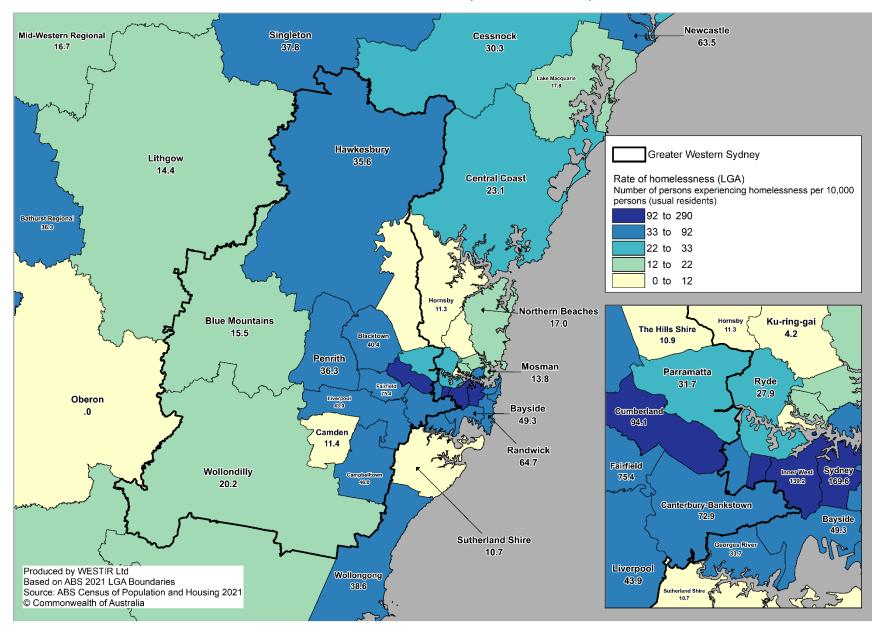


MAP 3. RATES OF HOMELESSNESS, GWS, 2021





#### MAP 4. RATES OF HOMELESSNESS, GREATER SYDNEY, 2021





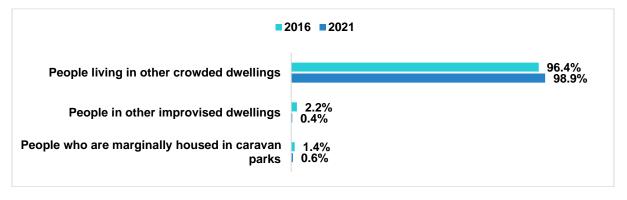
#### Persons marginally housed

In the 2021 Census, it was estimated that 17,260 people were marginally housed in GWS. The number of persons marginally housed in GWS decreased by -6.0% from 18,352 in the 2016 Census (see Figure 5, Appendix 2.1, and Appendix 2.2).

Out of all persons who were marginally housed, more than nine in ten were living in other crowded dwellings in both 2016 and 2021. However, the percentage increased slightly from 96.4% (17,694) in 2016 to 98.9% (17,076) in 2021 (see Figure 4 and Appendix 2.2).

In 2021, marginal housing in caravan parks (0.6%, 112) and other improvised dwellings (0.4%, 72) remained uncommon in GWS.

#### FIGURE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF MARGINAL HOUSING GROUPS, GWS, 2016 AND 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-</u> census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx

Canterbury-Bankstown (3,776), Cumberland (3,376), and Fairfield (3,030) recorded the highest numbers of people who were marginally housed. Of the three DCJ Districts in GWS, South Western Sydney (9,785) had the highest number of persons experiencing homelessness. These LGAs and their respective counts are shown in Map 5.

The total number of persons marginally housed in GWS also decreased by -6.0% from 18,352 in 2016 to 17,260 in 2021 (see Figure 5), but this percentage-decrease is much smaller than for the total number of persons experiencing homelessness (-12.7%). The number of persons marginally housed also decreased in Greater Sydney (-14.8%), the Rest of NSW (-0.3%), and NSW (-11.7%). This is in contrast to what was observed in two of the three DCJ Districts in GWS. The Nepean Blue Mountains and South Western Sydney witnessed increases of +11.8% and +3.1%. Meanwhile, Western Sydney recorded a decrease of -17.5%.

Eight out of the thirteen GWS LGAs recorded percentage-decreases in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness. The Blue Mountains (-64.5%, 107 to 38), The Hills Shire (-34.8%, 353 to 230), and Cumberland (-17.0%, 4,066 to 3,376) recorded the highest values.



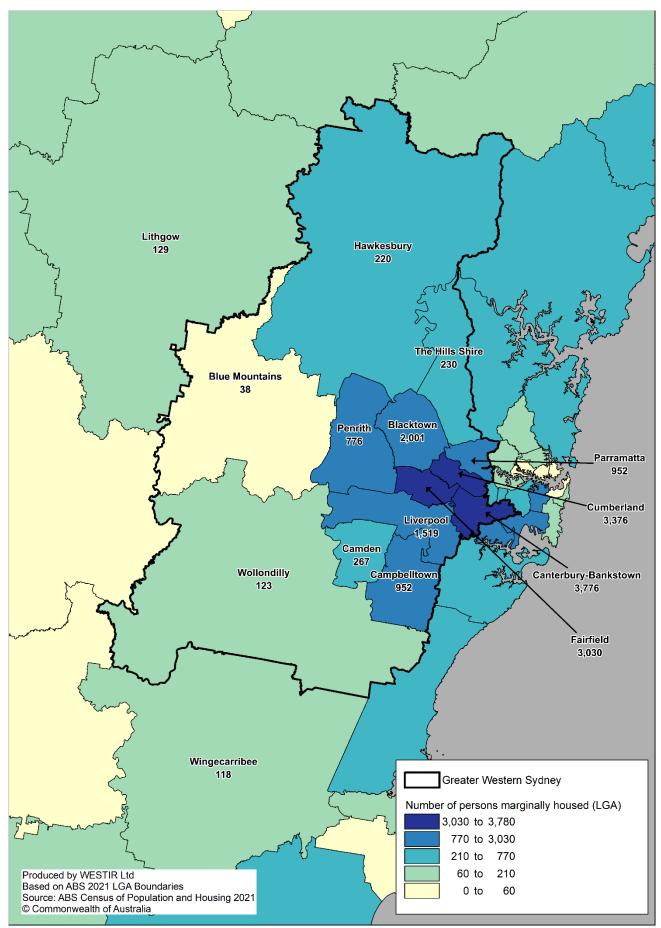
However, five remaining LGAs recorded percentage-increases. Camden's number of persons marginally housed more than doubled (147.2%, 108 to 267), which is the largest value out of the five LGAs recording percentage-increases. In the 2021 Census, Camden recorded the highest percentage change for its total population (52.6%, 78,218 to 119,325) out of the 13 GWS LGAs.<sup>37</sup> Following Camden were Penrith (19.9%, 647 to 776), Campbelltown (18.6%, 803 to 952), Liverpool (6.0%, 1,433 to 1,519), and Canterbury-Bankstown (1.2%, 3,732 to 3,776). Except for Penrith, all of these LGAs are within the DCJ District of South Western Sydney.

The two LGAs outside of GWS also recorded percentage-increases. The number of persons marginally housed in Lithgow more than tripled from 2016 to 2021 (222.5%, 40 to 129). Wingecarribee, on the other hand, increased by 32.6% (89 to 118).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Baroy, N. (2022). *Greater Western Sydney: A first look at the data* (2021 Census Topic Papers). WESTIR Ltd. <u>https://www.westir.org.au/new/images/GWSFDATA.pdf</u>, p. 2

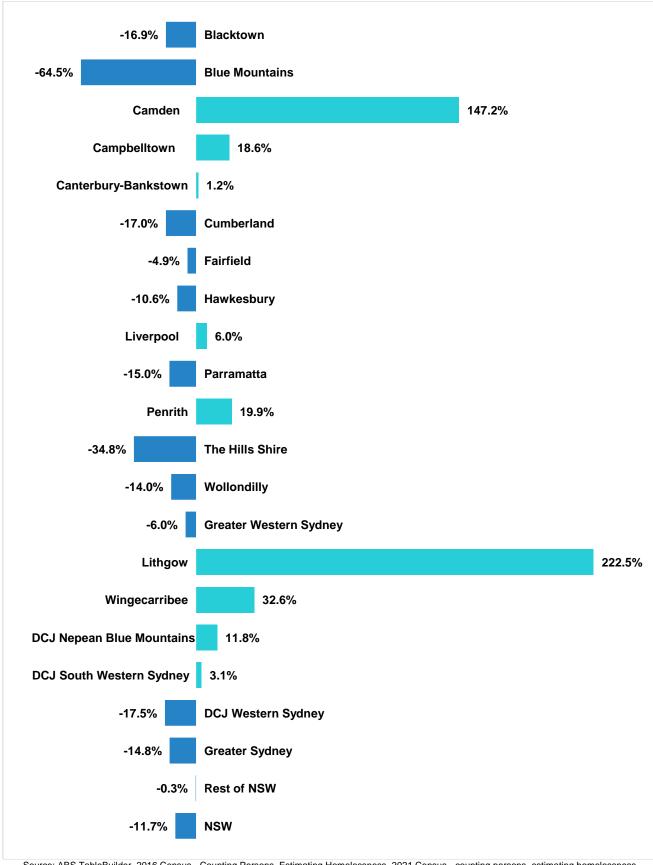


MAP 5. NUMBER OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED, GWS, 2021





### FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE CHANGES, TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2016 TO 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do06\_2021.xlsx</a>



The rate of marginal housing in GWS, computed as the number of persons marginally housed per 10,000 people (usual residents), was 66.2 for 2021 (see Figure 6 and Appendix 2.2). This means that, for every 10,000 people who usually reside in GWS, there were 66.2 persons who were marginally housed. This is higher than the rate of homelessness in GWS for 2021, at 47.4. GWS's rate of marginal housing in 2021 (66.2) was much higher than that of Greater Sydney (47.5), the Rest of NSW (28.6), and NSW (40.8).

Similar to rates of homelessness, the rates of marginal housing also decreased in GWS (79.5 to 66.2), Greater Sydney (60.5 to 47.5), the Rest of NSW (30.6 to 28.6), and NSW (49.8 to 40.8). Two of the three DCJ Districts in GWS, South Western Sydney (87.8 to 80.5) and Western Sydney (84.9 to 60.7), also witnessed a decrease. However, the rate for the Nepean Blue Mountains increased marginally from 29.0 to 30.3.

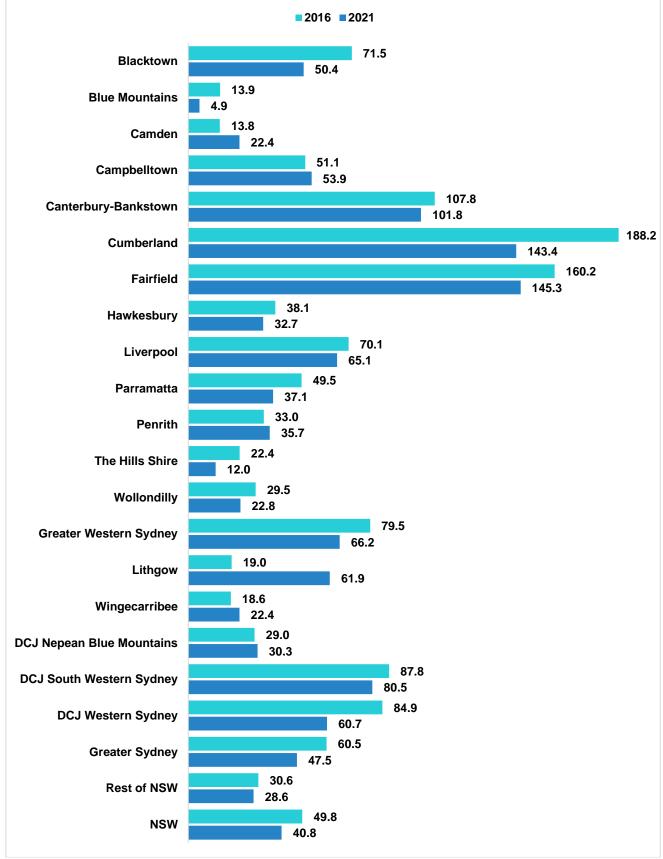
Rates of homelessness also varied widely across the 13 GWS LGAs, from 4.9 (the Blue Mountains) to 145.3 (Fairfield). Fairfield (145.3), Cumberland (143.4), and Canterbury-Bankstown (101.8) recorded the highest rates for 2021. These three LGAs also had the highest values in 2016, in the same order. However, the rates of marginal housing for these three LGAs decreased (see Figure 6). GWS LGAs and their respective rates are shown in Map 6. Map 7 also illustrates rates of homelessness for the broader Greater Sydney region. It includes an inset map that focuses on Strathfield (112.1) and Burwood (109.9), two LGAs that recorded rates within the second highest range (77 to 487), alongside the three GWS LGAs mentioned earlier in this paragraph.<sup>38</sup>

Ten of the 13 GWS LGAs witnessed a decrease in marginal housing rates. However, three remaining LGAs, namely Camden, Campbelltown, and Penrith, recorded increases. The number of persons marginally housed per 10,000 people (usual residents) in Camden increased from 13.8 in 2016 to 22.4 in 2021. Campbelltown's rate increased from 51.1 to 53.9, and Penrith's rate increased from 33.0 to 35.7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Only one LGA in NSW, Walgett (487.3), recorded a rate within the highest range. Walgett is located in the northern region of NSW, along the NSW border with Queensland.



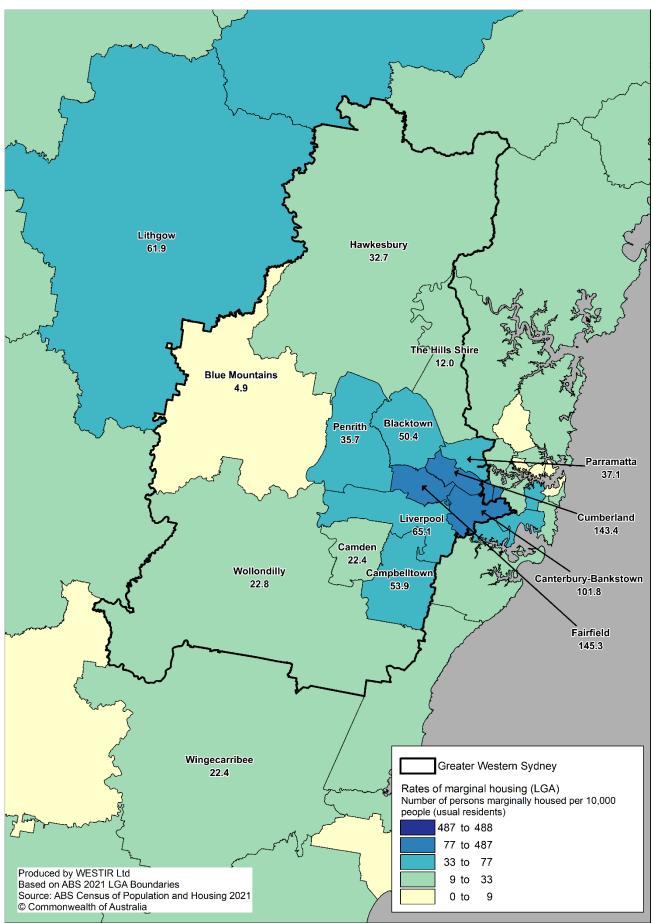
### FIGURE 6. RATES OF HOMELESSNESS, NUMBER OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED PER 10,000 PEOPLE (USUAL RESIDENTS), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2016 AND 2021



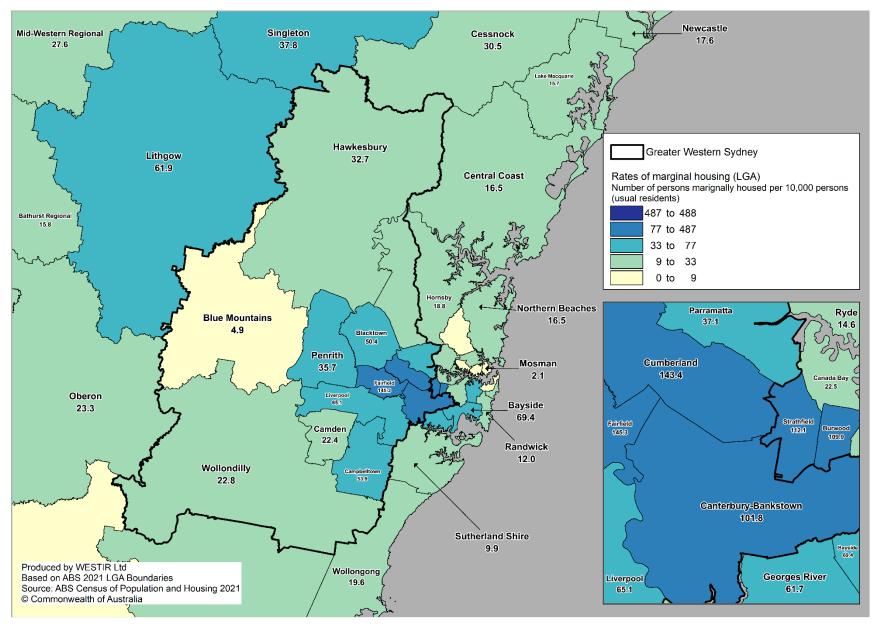
Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx</u>











#### MAP 7. RATES OF MARGINAL HOUSING, GREATER SYDNEY, 2021



## Demographics of persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed in Greater Western Sydney

To build a picture of homelessness and marginal housing in GWS, this section examines various demographic variables specific to both cohorts using data from the ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Each section first discusses persons experiencing homelessness, followed by persons marginally housed.

#### Sex

In GWS, there were more males (56.0%, 6,921) than females (44.0%, 5,432) who were experiencing homelessness in 2021 (see Figure 7 and Appendix 3.1). Similar trends, wherein there were more males than females, were observed in the three DCJ Districts in GWS, Greater Sydney, the Rest of NSW, and NSW. There was some variation at the LGA level, but ten of the 13 GWS LGAs had more males experiencing homelessness than females.

	Female Male	
Blacktown	48.7%	51.1%
Blue Mountains	47.1%	49.6%
Camden	47.1%	54.4%
Campbelltown	50.1%	49.3%
Canterbury-Bankstown	38.2%	61.8%
Cumberland	37.3%	62.6%
Fairfield	49.6%	50.1%
Hawkesbury	46.4%	54.4%
Liverpool	49.7%	50.5%
Parramatta	39.1%	61.8%
Penrith	48.0%	51.7%
The Hills Shire	53.1%	45.5%
Wollondilly	45.9%	58.7%
Greater Western Sydney	44.0%	56.0%
Lithgow	31.4%	51.4%
Wingecarribee	51.3%	47.4%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	47.1%	52.0%
DCJ South Western Sydney	44.8%	55.2%
DCJ Western Sydney	42.1%	57.9%
Greater Sydney	40.6%	59.4%
Rest of NSW	44.8%	55.2%
NSW	41.8%	58.2%

#### FIGURE 7. SEX OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



As for persons who were marginally housed in GWS, more were male (53.1%, 9,184) than female (46.8%, 8,082) in 2021 (see Figure 8 and Appendix 3.2). There were also more males who were marginally housed than their female counterparts in Greater Sydney, the Rest of NSW, and NSW, as well as the DCJ Districts of the Nepean Blue Mountains and Western Sydney. In eight of the 13 GWS LGAs, males accounted for more than half of persons who were marginally housed.

Blacktown	48.7%	50.9%
Blue Mountains	36.6%	56.1%
Camden	52.8%	46.1%
Campbelltown	52.2%	47.3%
Canterbury-Bankstown	44.2%	55.8%
Cumberland	41.6%	58.3%
Fairfield	51.4%	48.6%
Hawkesbury	47.2%	54.2%
Liverpool	50.3%	49.5%
Parramatta	37.7%	62.4%
Penrith	52.7%	46.5%
The Hills Shire	50.9%	50.9%
Wollondilly	48.4%	54.0%
Greater Western Sydney	46.8%	53.1%
Lithgow	49.6%	48.8%
Wingecarribee	49.1%	53.6%
CJ Nepean Blue Mountains	50.8%	48.5%
DCJ South Western Sydney	48.5%	51.5%
DCJ Western Sydney	43.6%	56.4%
Greater Sydney	46.0%	54.1%
Rest of NSW	46.8%	53.2%
NSW	46.2%	53.8%

#### FIGURE 8. SEX OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



## Age

This section tackles the ages of persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed across four age groups: 0-24 years, 25-44 years, 45-64 years, and 65 and over years. In GWS, more than four in ten (43.0%, 5,314) persons experiencing homelessness were aged 0-24 (see Figure 9 and Appendix 4.1). Persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were more likely to be aged 0-24, which is the youngest age group, than those in Greater Sydney (32.9%, 8,262), the Rest of NSW (36.9%, 3,634), and NSW (34.0%, 11,900). Of the three DCJ Districts in GWS, the Nepean Blue Mountains (49.2%, 584) had a higher proportion of persons experiencing homelessness who were aged 0-24 than South Western Sydney (42.8%, 2,753) and Western Sydney (41.6%, 2,015). Persons experiencing homelessness in Campbelltown (52.6%, 427), Blacktown (51.7%, 830), and Penrith (51.6%, 408) were more likely to fall within this age group than any of the 13 GWS LGAs.

The second most common age group among persons experiencing homelessness in GWS was 25-44 years, which accounted for 33.4% (4,133) of all persons experiencing homelessness. GWS (33.4%, 4,133) recorded a higher percentage for this cohort than the Rest of NSW (32.9%, 3,238) but a lower percentage than Greater Sydney (38.6%, 9,697) and NSW (37.0%, 12,941). Among the three DCJ Districts in GWS, Western Sydney (37.2%, 1,804) had the highest percentage, followed by South Western Sydney (31.4%, 2,024) and the Nepean Blue Mountains (28.4%, 337). Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Parramatta (43.6%, 357), Cumberland (43.0%, 953), and Camden (42.6%, 58) had the highest percentages, which means that persons experiencing homelessness in these three LGAs were more likely to fall within the 25-44 age group. It is also worth noting that, for these three LGAs, the 25-44 age group is the most common age group for persons experiencing homelessness.

Ranking third in GWS was the 45-64 age group, accounting for 18.8% (2,320) of persons experiencing homelessness. Persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were less likely to fall in this age group than those in Greater Sydney (21.4%, 5,376), the Rest of NSW (21.8%, 2,148), and NSW (21.5%, 7,528). Of the three DCJ Districts in GWS, South Western Sydney (20.3%, 1,306) had the highest percentage, followed by Western Sydney (17.5%, 850) and the Nepean Blue Mountains (16.9%, 200). Persons experiencing homelessness in Fairfield (21.5%, 337), the Blue Mountains (21.5%, 26), and Canterbury-Bankstown (21.3%, 577) were more likely to fall in this age group than any of the other 13 GWS LGAs. While outside of GWS, it is important to note that the 45-64 age group was the most common age group for persons experiencing homelessness in Lithgow (31.4%, 11).

Finally, only 4.6% (566) of persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were aged 65 and over. GWS recorded lower percentages for this age group than Greater Sydney (7.2%, 1,806), the Rest of NSW (8.2%, 808), and NSW (7.5%, 2,613). Percentages did not vary widely across the three DCJ Districts in GWS, but the Nepean Blue Mountains (5.8%, 69) had the highest percentage. Among the 13 GWS LGAs, Hawkesbury (9.2%, 22), The Hills Shire (8.6%, 18), the Blue Mountains (8.3%, 10), and Wollondilly (8.3%, 9) had the highest percentages.



#### □ 0-24 years □ 25-44 years □ 45-64 years □ 65+ years Blacktown 51.7% 26.7% 3.7% 17.6% **Blue Mountains** 41.3% 28.9% 21.5% 8.3% Camden 35.3% 42.6% 16.2% 3.7% Campbelltown 52.6% 3.2% 26.2% 17.1% **Canterbury-Bankstown** 33.9% 21.3% 5.4% 39.5% Cumberland 37.0% 43.0% 17.6% 2.1% 42.5% Fairfield 30.2% 5.6% 21.5% Hawkesbury 28.5% 9.2% 49.4% 15.5% Liverpool 45.7% 30.0% 18.0% 5.8% Parramatta 33.7% 43.6% 16.6% 5.6% 51.6% Penrith 28.7% 15.9% 3.7% The Hills Shire 42.6% 31.6% 19.1% 8.6% Wollondilly 41.3% 26.6% 19.3% 8.3% Greater Western Sydney 33.4% 4.6% 43.0% 18.8% Lithgow 22.9% 20.0% 31.4% 22.9% Wingecarribee 38.5% 3.8% 32.1% 32.1% **DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains** 49.2% 28.4% 16.9% 5.8% **DCJ South Western Sydney** 20.3% 5.2% 42.8% 31.4% **DCJ Western Sydney** 41.6% 3.5% 37.2% 17.5% **Greater Sydney** 32.9% 38.6% 21.4% 7.2% **Rest of NSW** 36.9% 32.9% 21.8% 8.2% NSW 34.0% 37.0% 21.5% 7.5%

FIGURE 9. AGES OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



As for persons marginally housed in GWS, close to five in ten (48.4%, 8,364) persons within this cohort were aged 0-24 (see Figure 10 and Appendix 4.2). Persons marginally housed in GWS were more likely to fall within this age group than those in Greater Sydney (45.7%, 11,348), the Rest of NSW (39.5%, 3,189), and NSW (44.2%, 14,541). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, the Nepean Blue Mountains (52.3%, 610) had the highest proportion of persons marginally housed who were aged 0-24, followed by South Western Sydney (48.7%, 4,771) and Western Sydney (47.2%, 3,095). This is similar to the trends for homelessness. Campbelltown (56.7%, 541), Penrith (53.8%, 421), and Liverpool (53.4%, 812) had the highest percentages of persons marginally housed within this age group out of the 13 GWS LGAs. It is worth noting that Campbelltown (52.6%, 427) and Penrith (51.6%, 408) also had the highest and third highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who were aged 0-24, respectively. In addition, seven of the 13 GWS LGAs had at least 50.0% of their respective cohorts who were marginally housed within this age group. Outside of GWS, Lithgow recorded a percentage higher than any of the 13 GWS LGAs at 55.1% (70).

As with homelessness, the 25-44 age group was the second most common age group among persons marginally housed. This age group accounted for 31.1% (5,379) of all persons within this cohort. GWS (31.1%, 5,379) recorded a higher percentage than the Rest of NSW (24.0%, 1,941) but a lower percentage than Greater Sydney (34.8%, 8,657) and NSW (32.2%, 10,600). Among the three GWS DCJ Districts, persons marginally housed in Western Sydney (36.2%, 2,377) were more likely to be aged 25-44 than their counterparts in the Nepean Blue Mountains (21.9%, 255) and South Western Sydney (28.6%, 2,804). Out of the 13 GWS LGAs, Parramatta (41.5%, 395), Cumberland (39.3%, 1,327), and Canterbury-Bankstown (32.3%, 1,220) had the highest percentages.

The 45-64 age group ranked third in GWS, accounting for 16.1% (2,784) of persons marginally housed. GWS had a higher percentage than Greater Sydney (14.9%, 3,708) but a smaller percentage than the Rest of NSW (21.9%, 1,767) and NSW (16.6%, 5,474). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, the Nepean Blue Mountains (20.5%, 239) had a higher percentage of persons marginally housed who were aged 45-64 than South Western Sydney (17.4%, 1,705) and Western Sydney (13.6%, 893). This is reflected at the LGA level, wherein persons marginally housed in Hawkesbury (25.9%, 56), the Blue Mountains (24.4%, 10), and Wollondilly (23.4%, 29) were more likely to fall within this age group out of the 13 GWS LGAs.

Finally, 4.3% (741) of persons marginally housed in GWS were aged 65 and over. GWS recorded a lower percentage for this age group than Greater Sydney (4.6%, 1,131), the Rest of NSW (14.5%, 1,171), and NSW (7.0%, 2,305). Across the three GWS DCJ Districts, the Nepean Blue Mountains (5.8%, 68) recorded a slightly higher percentage than South Western Sydney (5.0%, 487) and Western Sydney (3.2%, 211). Meanwhile, Wollondilly (15.3%, 19) recorded a much higher percentage than its counterpart LGAs in GWS. Hawkesbury (7.9%, 17) and the Blue Mountains (7.3%, 3) followed Wollondilly.



	□0-24 years  □25-44 ye	ears ■45-64 years ■	165+ years			
Blacktown	52.6%		29.5%		13.9%	3.8%
Blue Mountains	51.2%		17.1%	24.4%	0	7.3%
Camden	53.2%		22.7%		16.0%	7.1%
Campbelltown	56.7%		25.1%	6	14.9%	2.8%
Canterbury-Bankstown	47.9%		32.3%		15.9%	3.8%
Cumberland	43.9%		39.3%		14.3%	2.7%
Fairfield	45.5%		27.8%	2	0.2%	6.5%
Hawkesbury	45.4%		20.8%	25.9%		7.9%
Liverpool	53.4%		25.1%		16.6%	4.4%
Parramatta	46.6%		41.5%		9.6	<b>3%</b> 3.3%
Penrith	53.8%		23.0%		18.4%	4.9%
The Hills Shire	50.0%		27.4%		17.4%	5.2%
Wollondilly	35.5%	20.2%	23	.4%	15.3	3%
Greater Western Sydney	48.4%		31.1%		16.1%	4.3%
Lithgow	55.1%		18.1%	22.8	%	7.9%
Wingecarribee	37.5%	30.4%	6	21.4%	1	3.4%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	52.3%		21.9%		20.5%	5.8%
DCJ South Western Sydney	48.7%		28.6%		17.4%	5.0%
DCJ Western Sydney	47.2%		36.2%		13.6%	3.2%
Greater Sydney	45.7%		34.8%		14.9%	4.6%
Rest of NSW	39.5%	24.0	%	21.9%	14	.5%
NSW	44.2%		32.2%		16.6%	7.0%

#### FIGURE 10. AGES OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



41

### Indigenous status

Of all persons experiencing homelessness in GWS in 2021, 3.0% (376) identified as Indigenous (see Figure 11 and Appendix 5.1).<sup>39</sup> This includes 363 persons identifying as Aboriginal, 7 identifying as Torres Strait Islander, and 6 identifying as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. GWS (3.0%, 376) recorded a slightly lower percentage than Greater Sydney (3.2%, 816). It also had a much lower percentage than the Rest of NSW (17.0%, 1,674) and the state overall (7.1%, 2,488).

Comparing the three GWS DCJ Districts, persons experiencing homelessness in the Nepean Blue Mountains (9.5%, 113) were more likely to identify as Indigenous than those in South Western Sydney (2.4%, 152) and Western Sydney (2.5%, 121).

Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Wollondilly (19.3%, 21) recorded the highest percentage, where close to one in five persons experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous. Hawkesbury (13.8%, 33) ranked second, followed by the Blue Mountains (7.4%, 9). Outside GWS, Wingecarribee (12.8%, 10) also recorded a percentage much higher than the GWS average.

Meanwhile, 1.8% (307) of persons who were marginally housed in GWS identified as Indigenous, which includes 299 persons identifying as Aboriginal, 3 persons identifying as Torres Strait Islander, and 5 persons identifying as both (see Figure 12 and Appendix 5.2).<sup>40</sup> Persons marginally housed in GWS were less likely to be Indigenous than persons experiencing homelessness. As for its comparative regions, GWS (1.8%, 307) recorded a percentage similar to Greater Sydney (1.9%, 468) but a lower percentage than the Rest of NSW (17.3%, 1,394) and NSW (5.7%, 1,867).

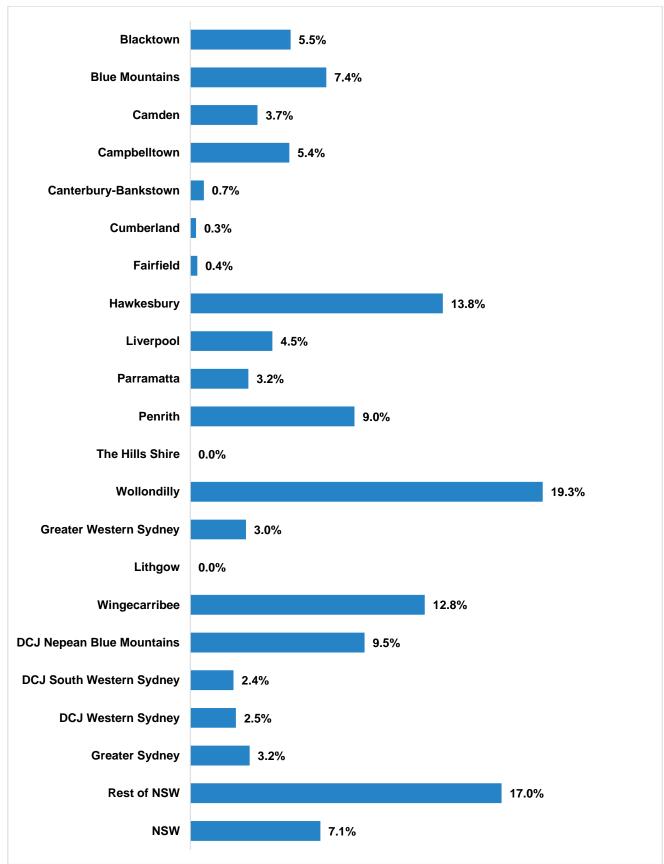
Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, the Nepean Blue Mountains (8.9%, 104) had a higher percentage of persons marginally housed who identified as Indigenous than South Western Sydney (1.3%, 123) and Western Sydney (1.6%, 108). This is similar to what was observed for persons experiencing homelessness.

The Blue Mountains (19.5%, 8) had the highest percentage out of the 13 GWS LGAs, followed by Wollondilly (10.5%, 13) and Hawkesbury (8.3%, 18). It is important to note that these three LGAs also had the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who were Indigenous. While outside GWS, Lithgow (19.7%, 25) recorded a percentage higher than the Blue Mountains and the GWS average.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> 88.2% (10,904) identified as non-Indigenous and 8.6% (1,057) did not state their Indigenous status.
 <sup>40</sup> 97.3% (16,824) identified as non-Indigenous and 0.7% (113) did not state their Indigenous status.

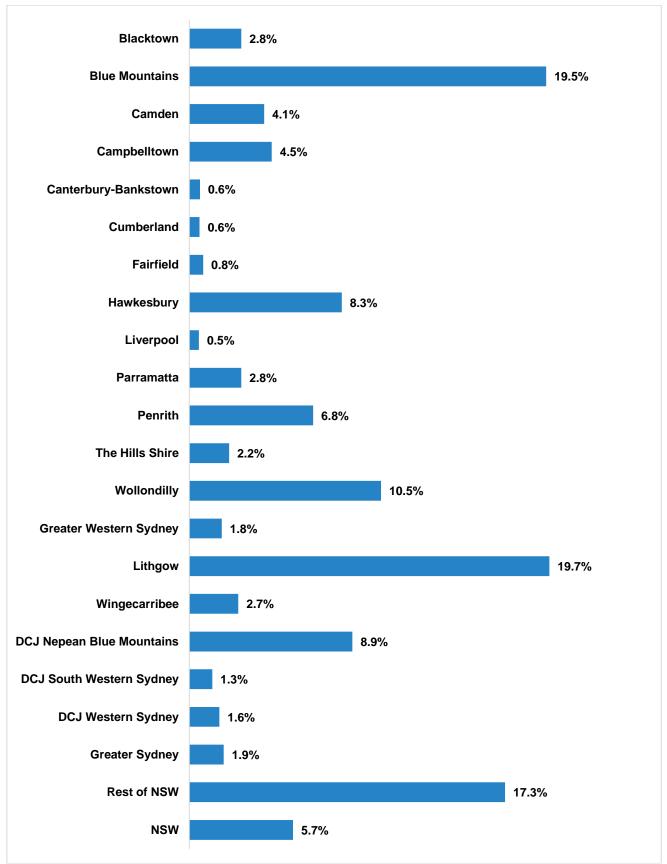


## FIGURE 11. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO WERE INDIGENOUS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## FIGURE 12. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO WERE INDIGENOUS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## **Cultural diversity**

### Country of birth

In GWS, close to half (49.6%, 6,131) of persons experiencing homelessness were born overseas (see Figure 13 and Appendix 6.1).<sup>41</sup> GWS recorded a higher percentage than Greater Sydney (48.4%, 12,157), the Rest of NSW (15.8%, 1,553), and NSW (39.2%, 13,709), which means that persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were more likely to be born overseas than those in its comparative regions.

Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, persons experiencing homelessness in Western Sydney (56.5%, 2,740) were more likely to be born overseas than those in the Nepean Blue Mountains (20.1%, 238) and South Western Sydney (49.2%, 3,164). It is also worth noting that more than half of persons experiencing homelessness in the Western Sydney District were born overseas.

Percentages at the LGA level varied widely, from 5.5% (Wollondilly) to 68.5% (Cumberland). Four of the 13 GWS LGAs recorded percentages above 50.0%, namely Cumberland (68.5%, 1,517), Canterbury-Bankstown (57.3%, 1,551), Fairfield (56.8%, 892), and Parramatta (55.8%, 457).

Compared to persons experiencing homelessness, persons who were marginally housed in GWS were more likely to be born overseas (56.5%, 9,767) (see Figure 14 and Appendix 6.2).<sup>42</sup> Although Greater Sydney (60.5%, 15,030) had a higher percentage than GWS (56.5%, 9,767), GWS recorded a percentage higher than the Rest of NSW (21.2%, 1,711) and NSW (50.8%, 16,739). This means that, for GWS and its comparative regions, persons marginally housed were more likely to be born overseas than those experiencing homelessness.

The DCJ District of Western Sydney (65.2%, 4,277), again, recorded the highest percentage out of the three GWS DCJ Districts, where persons who were marginally housed were more likely to be born overseas. South Western Sydney (53.2%, 5,213) ranked second, and the Nepean Blue Mountains (26.3%, 307) ranked last.

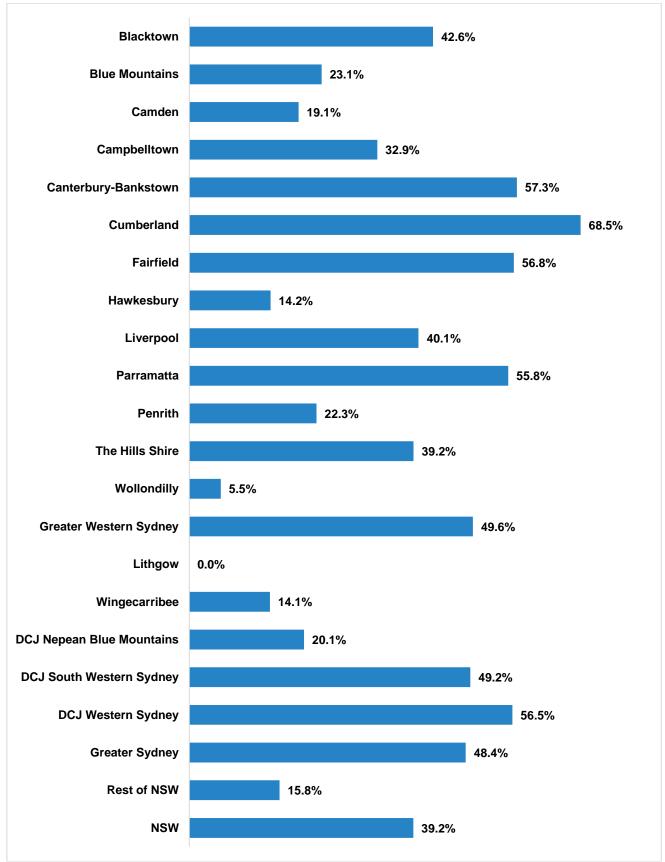
Variation at the LGA level for the percentages of persons marginally housed who were born overseas was much wider than the percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who were born overseas, ranging from 7.3% (the Blue Mountains) to 71.6% (Parramatta). Seven of the 13 GWS LGAs recorded percentages above 50.0%. These LGAs were Parramatta (71.6%, 681), Cumberland (70.2%, 2,369), Fairfield (60.0%, 1,821), Blacktown (55.2%, 1,108), Canterbury-Bankstown (54.7%, 2,064), The Hills Shire (51.7%, 119), and Liverpool (51.2%, 779). All four LGAs within the DCJ District of Western Sydney recorded percentages above 50.0%, and two of these LGAs, Parramatta and Cumberland, recorded the highest percentages.

<sup>42 42.1% (7,284)</sup> were born in Australia and 1.3% (217) did not state their country of birth.



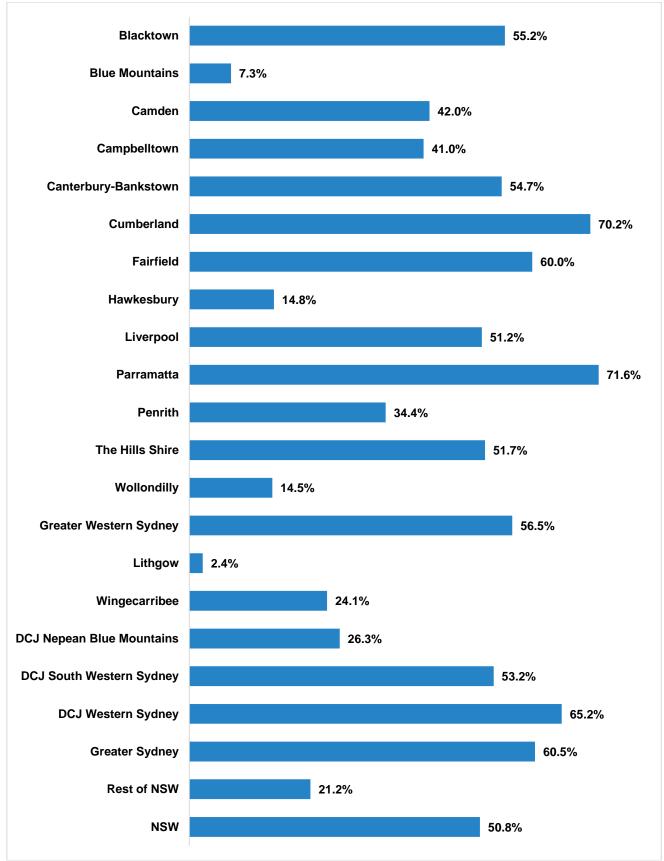
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> This percentage includes persons born in external territories and supplementary codes. In addition, 38.2% (4,718) were born in Australia and 12.1% (1,496) did not state their country of birth.

#### FIGURE 13. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO WERE BORN OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## FIGURE 14. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO WERE BORN OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





#### Language used at home

Persons experiencing homelessness in GWS mostly used a language other than English at home (57.8%, 7,147) (see Figure 15 and Appendix 7.1).<sup>43</sup> Aside from English, the most common languages used at home for this cohort were Arabic (1,221), Vietnamese (994), Mandarin (872), Urdu (458), and Samoan (345). In addition, there were six persons experiencing homelessness who reported using Auslan, which stands for Australian Sign Language, at home. It was more common for persons experiencing homelessness in GWS to use a language other than English than those in Greater Sydney (47.9%, 12,037), the Rest of NSW (11.4%, 1,120), NSW (37.6%, 13,154).

Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, persons experiencing homelessness in South Western Sydney (62.5%, 4,023) were most likely to use a language other than English at home than their counterparts in Western Sydney (59.9%, 2,904) and the Nepean Blue Mountains (19.3%, 229). Fairfield (75.9%, 1,193), Cumberland (75.0%, 1,663), and Canterbury-Bankstown (71.7%, 1,939) had the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who used a language other than English at home, with all three LGAs recording percentages above 70.0%. Two other LGAs, Parramatta (54.2%, 444) and Liverpool (52.4%, 537), recorded percentages above 50.0%.

On the other hand, the percentage of persons marginally housed who used a language other than English in GWS was 70.7% (12,221), which was higher than the percentage for persons experiencing homelessness (57.8%, 7,147) (see Figure 16 and Appendix 7.2).<sup>44</sup> Aside from English, the most common languages used at home for this cohort were Vietnamese (1,837), Mandarin (790), Urdu (713), Nepali (629), and Samoan (494). Similarly, there were nine persons marginally housed who reported using Auslan at home. GWS (70.7%, 12,221) had a higher percentage than the Rest of NSW (16.2%, 1,310) and NSW (57.8%, 19,019) but a lower percentage than Greater Sydney (71.3%, 17,714).

The DCJ District of Western Sydney had the highest percentage of the three GWS Districts, where 74.3% (4,876) of persons marginally housed used a language other than English at home. This was closely followed by South Western Sydney at 72.1% (7,059). The Nepean Blue Mountains (26.9%, 314) had a much lower percentage than these two DCJ Districts. Eight of the 13 GWS LGAs recorded percentages of at least 50.0%, with Cumberland (83.6%, 2,824), Fairfield (78.5%, 2,381), Canterbury-Bankstown (78.4%, 2,961), and Parramatta (78.0%, 742) recording the highest percentages. These LGAs also recorded the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who used a language other than English.

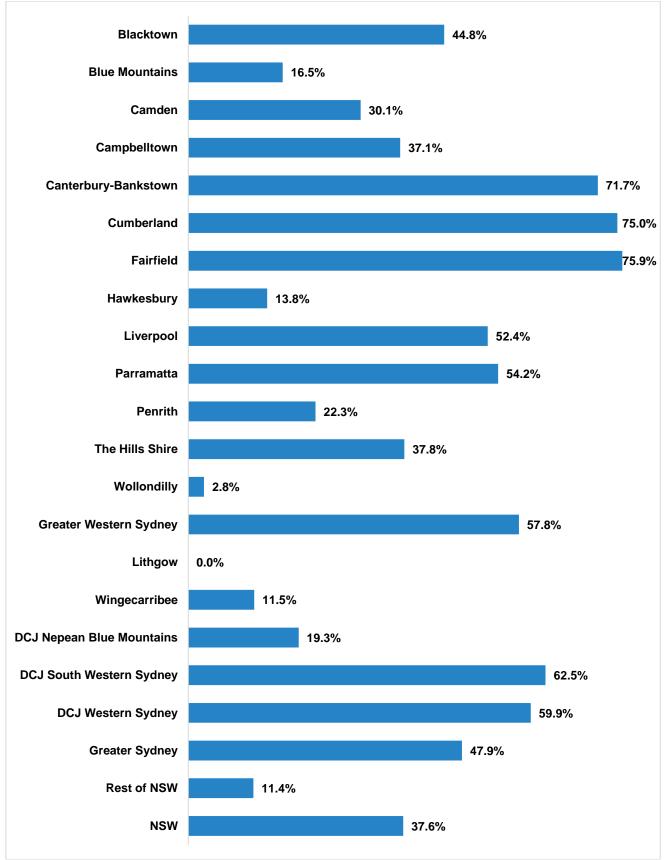
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> 26.4% (4,563) used English at home, 0.1% (13) inadequately described the language they used at home, and 2.9% (495) did not state the language they used at home.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> This percentage includes supplementary codes, except for 'Inadequately Described'. In total, the four-digit level LANP variable has 505 categories.

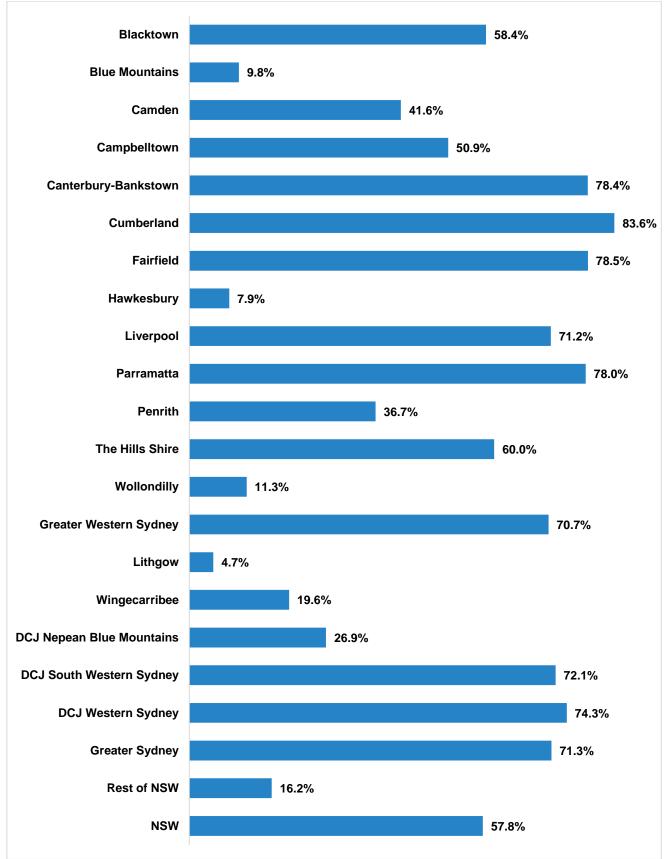
<sup>28.3% (3,497)</sup> used English at home, 0.02% (3) inadequately described the language they used at home, and 13.7% (1,697) did not state the language they used at home.

#### FIGURE 15. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO USED A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## FIGURE 16. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO USED A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





### Citizenship status

Citizenship status is another important variable to examine that is related to cultural and linguistic diversity. Citizenship or permanent residency is a common requirement for access to a range of social services in Australia. For instance, citizenship or permanent residency in Australia is usually one of the eligibility criteria to access housing assistance in NSW.<sup>45</sup> Data from the ABS Census does not provide information on permanent residency, as the questionnaire only asks whether a person is an Australian citizen or not.<sup>46</sup> This is a limitation of the data, but it still provides crucial information.

A majority (56.1%, 6,930) of persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were Australian citizens. Meanwhile, one in three (32.3%, 3,987) persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were not Australian citizens (see Figure 17 and Appendix 8.1).<sup>47</sup> Greater Sydney (33.9%, 8,515) recorded a higher percentage of persons experiencing homelessness who were not Australian citizens than GWS (32.3%, 3,987). However, GWS recorded a higher percentage than the Rest of NSW (11.0%, 1,080) and NSW (27.4%, 9,598).

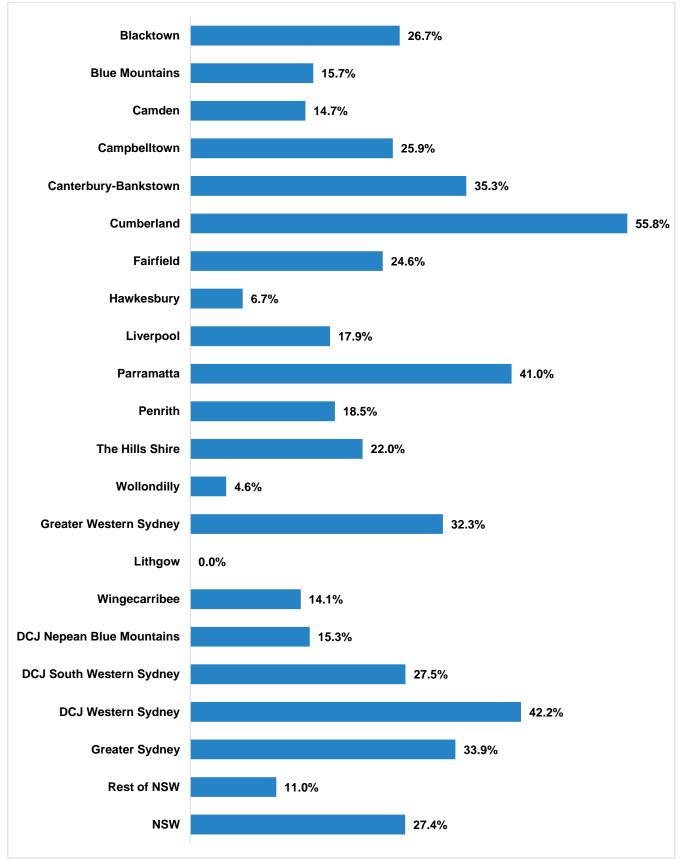
Western Sydney (42.2%, 2,048) recorded the highest percentage out of the three GWS DCJ Districts, followed by South Western Sydney (27.5%, 1,769) and the Nepean Blue Mountains (15.3%, 181).

This is reflected at the LGA level, wherein Western Sydney LGAs, such as Cumberland (55.8%, 1,237) and Parramatta (41.0%, 336), recorded the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who were not Australian citizens. These two LGAs were followed by Canterbury-Bankstown (35.3%, 954). It is worth noting that of the 13 GWS LGAs, only Cumberland recorded a percentage of above 50.0%.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> NSW Government Communities and Justice. (n.d.). *Eligibility for social housing*. Family & Community Services. Retrieved 12 September 2024, from <u>https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/eligibility/social-housing</u>
 <sup>46</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Australian citizenship (CITP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/cultural-diversity/australian-citizenship-citp</u>
 <sup>47</sup> 11.5% (1,420) did not state their response.



#### FIGURE 17. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO WERE NOT AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





Of all persons marginally housed in GWS, 63.9% (11,037) were Australian citizens. This means that, in GWS, persons marginally housed were more likely to be Australian citizens than persons experiencing homelessness (56.1%, 6,930).

Similar to the homeless population, more than one in three (35.1%, 6,059) persons marginally housed in GWS were not Australian citizens (see Figure 18 and Appendix 8.2).<sup>48</sup> GWS' percentage was lower than that of Greater Sydney (42.1%, 10,468) and NSW (35.6%, 11,735) but higher than that of the Rest of NSW (15.7%, 1,268).

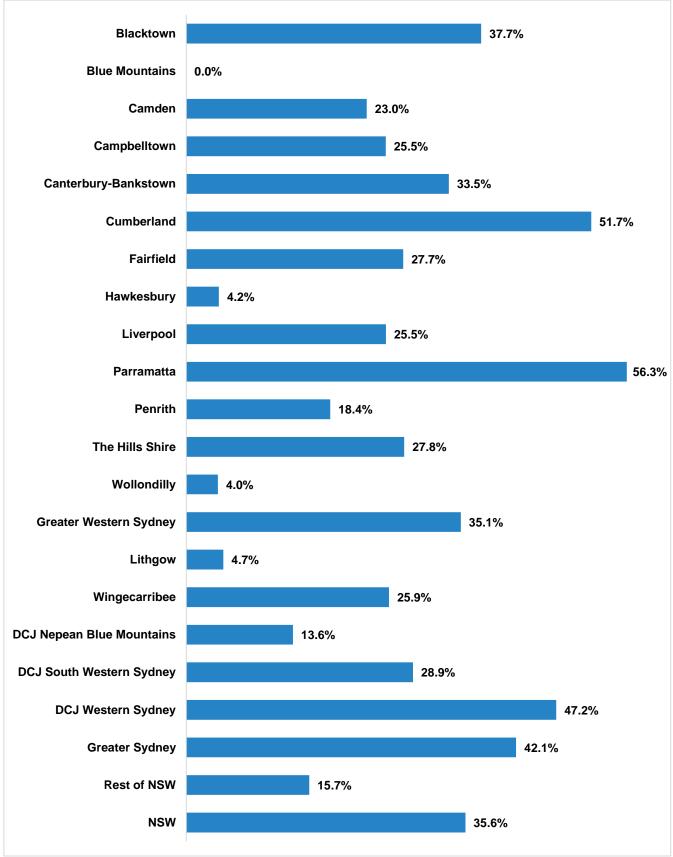
Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, Western Sydney (47.2%, 3,101) had the highest percentage of persons marginally housed who were not Australian citizens, followed by South Western Sydney (28.9%, 2,834). The Nepean Blue Mountains (13.6%, 159) recorded a percentage much lower than the other two DCJ Districts.

Parramatta (56.3%, 535) and Cumberland (51.7%, 1,746) recorded percentages above 50.0% and the highest percentages out of the 13 GWS LGAs. Canterbury-Bankstown (33.5%, 1,266) ranked third. These three LGAs also recorded the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who were not Australian citizens.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> 1.1% (186) did not state their response.



## FIGURE 18. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO WERE NOT AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





### Disability

The ABS defines disability based on a profound or severe core activity limitation. According to the ABS, 'People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), and old age'.<sup>49</sup> Of the total population of GWS in 2021 (2,606,544), 5.8% (151,963) had a disability.<sup>50</sup> The prevalence of disability among the total population of GWS was slightly higher than its cohorts who were experiencing homelessness (4.5%, 561) and marginally housed (5.0%, 857).

Of all persons experiencing homelessness in GWS in 2021, 4.5% (561) had a disability (see Figure 19 and Appendix 9.1).<sup>51</sup> This proportion is higher than that of Greater Sydney (3.7%, 932) and NSW (4.2%, 1,456) but lower than that of the Rest of NSW (5.3%, 523). Percentages across the three GWS DCJ Districts did not vary significantly, ranging from Western Sydney (3.7%, 179) to South Western Sydney (5.2%, 335). Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Liverpool (7.5%, 77), Hawkesbury (6.7%, 16), and Camden (6.6%, 9) recorded the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness who had a disability.

Meanwhile, out of all persons marginally housed in GWS, 5.0% (857) had a disability (see Figure 20 and Appendix 9.2), a percentage slightly higher than that of persons experiencing homelessness (4.5%, 561).<sup>52</sup> GWS recorded a percentage higher than Greater Sydney (4.3%, 1,062). However, GWS' percentage was lower than that of the Rest of NSW (7.9%, 635) and NSW (5.2%, 1,699). Across the three GWS DCJ Districts, percentages ranged from 3.6% (Western Sydney, 236) to 7.0% (Nepean Blue Mountains, 82). Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Wollondilly (13.7%, 17), Liverpool (7.5%, 114), and the Blue Mountains (7.3%, 3) recorded the highest percentages of persons marginally housed who had a disability.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> 92.6% (16,002) did not have a need for assistance with core activities and 2.5% (425) did not state their response.

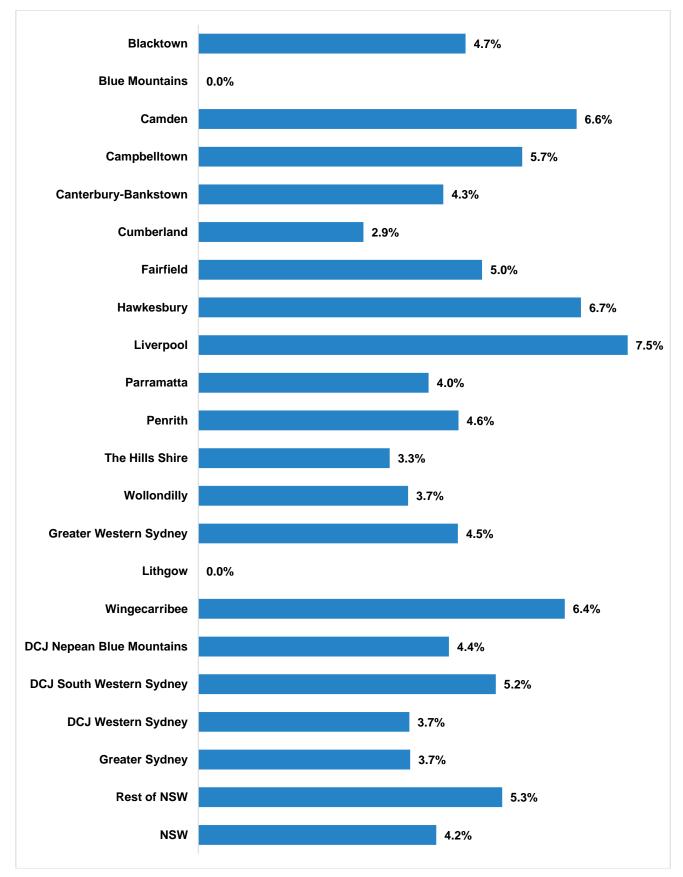


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Core activity need for assistance (ASSNP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/disability-and-carers/core-activity-need-assistance-assnp</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Bhusal, R. (2023). *Disability in Greater Western Sydney* (2021 Census Topic Papers). WESTIR Ltd. https://www.westir.org.au/census/disability-in-greater-western-sydney-june-2023/, p. 5

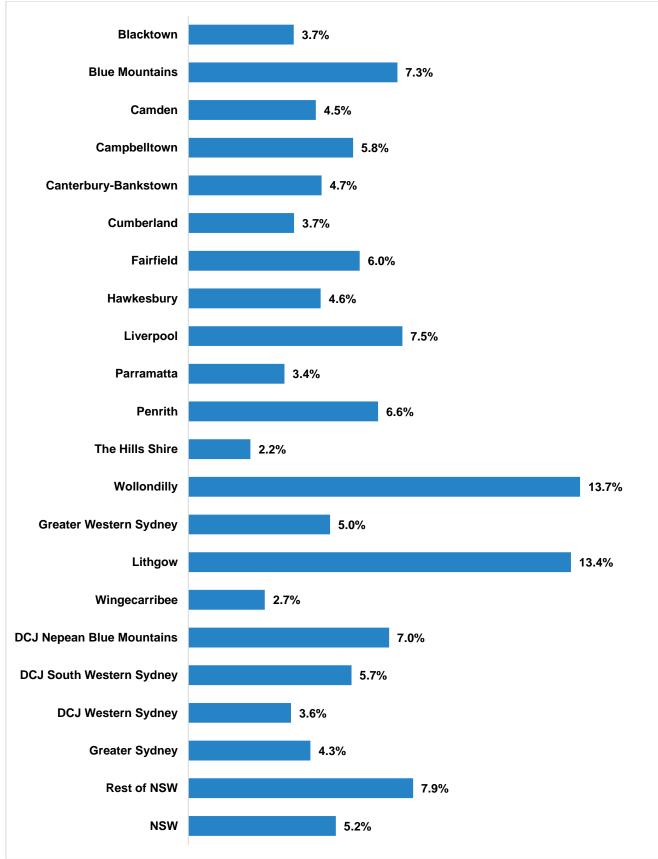
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> 81.8% (10,076) did not have a need for assistance with core activities and 13.8% (1,703) did not state their response.

#### FIGURE 19. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO HAD A DISABILITY, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## FIGURE 20. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO HAD A DISABILITY, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





### Long-term health conditions

The 2021 Census introduced new variables related to long-term health conditions. The 'Count of selected long-term health conditions' variable records the number of selected long-term health conditions a person has.<sup>53</sup> These selected conditions are arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), and stroke. More than one in five (23.0%, 598,688) of GWS' overall population in 2021 had at least one of these conditions.54

Looking into the population of GWS experiencing homelessness, 14.8% (1,831) had at least one of the selected long-term health conditions, which is lower than the percentage for GWS' overall population (23.0%, 598,688) (see Figure 21 and Appendix 10.1).<sup>55</sup> The most common conditions for this cohort were mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety) (700), asthma (609), and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes) (441). GWS' percentage (14.8%, 1,831) of persons experiencing homelessness who had at least one of these conditions was lower than that of Greater Sydney (16.5%, 4,150), the Rest of NSW (26.2%, 2,580), and NSW (19.2%, 6,732). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, the Nepean Blue Mountains (24.9%, 295) recorded the highest percentage, followed by South Western Sydney (15.0%, 964) and Western Sydney (12.3%, 594). Persons experiencing homelessness in the Blue Mountains (33.1%, 40), Hawkesbury (31.0%, 74), and Wollondilly (29.4%, 32) were most likely to have at least one of the selected longterm health conditions out of the 13 GWS LGAs.

On the other hand, 13.6% (2,347) of persons marginally housed in GWS had at least one of the selected long-term health conditions.<sup>56</sup> This percentage is lower than the percentages for GWS' overall population (23.0%, 598,688) and for persons experiencing homelessness in GWS (14.8%, 1,831) (see Figure 22 and Appendix 10.2). The most common long-term health conditions for persons marginally housed in GWS were asthma (911), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes) (630), and mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety) (545). As for its comparative regions, GWS recorded a higher percentage than Greater Sydney (12.8%, 3,176) but a lower percentage than the Rest of NSW (30.8%, 2,489) and NSW (17.2%, 5,668). As with the trend seen for persons experiencing homelessness, the Nepean Blue Mountains (21.8%, 254) had the highest percentage out of the three GWS DCJ Districts, followed by South Western Sydney (14.1%, 1,385) and Western Sydney (11.6%, 760). Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Wollondilly (33.1%, 41), Hawkesbury (27.3%, 59), and the Blue Mountains (22.0%, 9) recorded the highest percentages.

COPD refers to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> 81.5% (14,091) had none of the selected conditions and 4.9% (846) did not state their response.

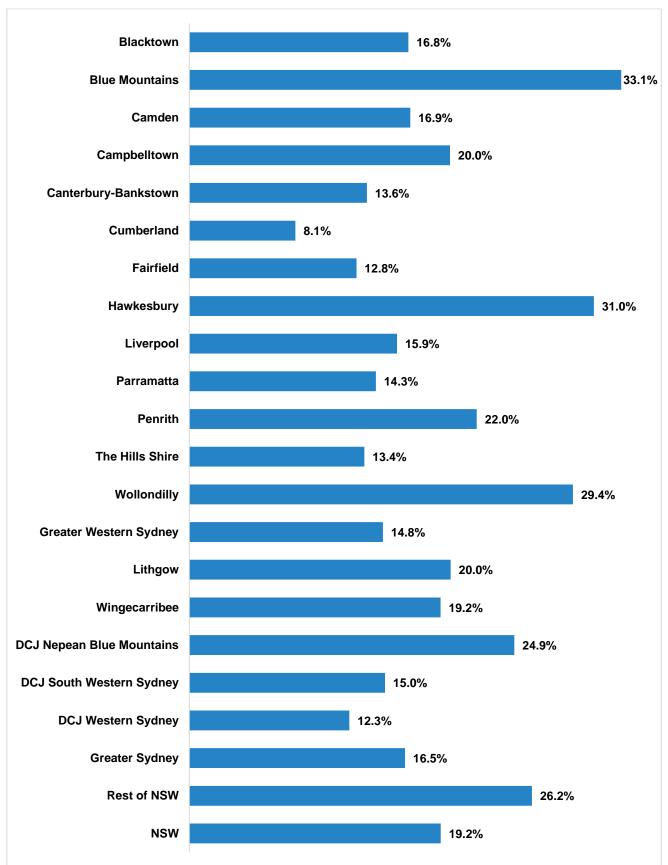


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). Count of selected long-term health conditions (CLTHP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics. https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/censusdictionary/2021/variables-topic/health/count-selected-long-term-health-conditions-clthp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Baroy, N. (2022). *Greater Western Sydney: A first look at the data* (2021 Census Topic Papers). WESTIR Ltd. https://www.westir.org.au/new/images/GWSFDATA.pdf, p. 18 55 69.6% (8,599) had none of the selected conditions and 15.6% (1,930) did not state their response.

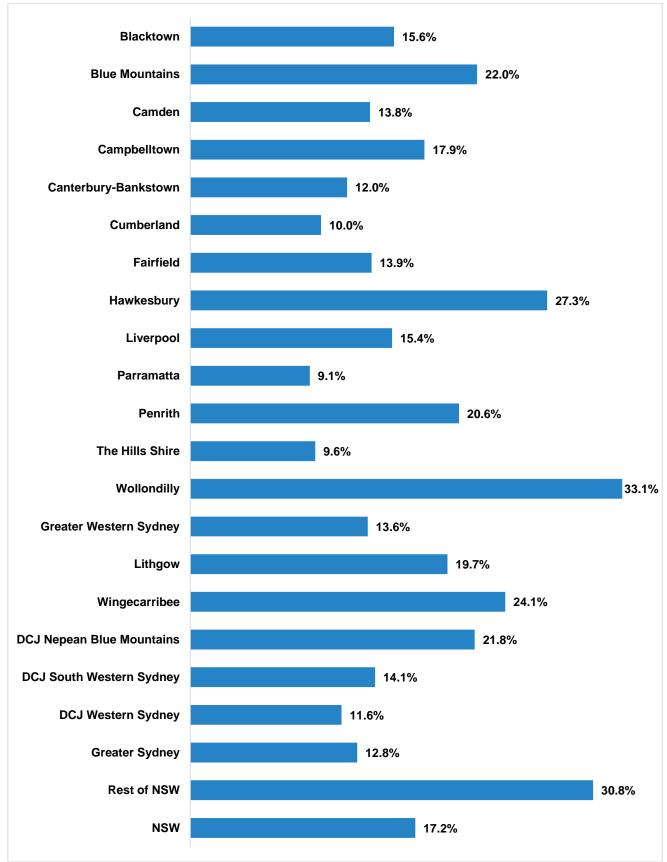
# FIGURE 21. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO HAD AT LEAST ONE OF THE SELECTED LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS,

2021





#### FIGURE 22. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO HAD AT LEAST ONE OF THE SELECTED LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





### Labour force status

Of all persons experiencing homelessness in GWS in 2021, 9,695 were aged 15 and over, making this the total applicable population for this section.<sup>57</sup> Within the applicable population or among persons experiencing homelessness in GWS aged 15 and over, close to half (47.2%, 4,575) were not in the labour force (see Figure 23 and Appendix 11.1), which means that they were neither employed nor unemployed during the week prior to Census night.<sup>58</sup> GWS' percentage was higher than that of Greater Sydney (38.3%, 8,301), the Rest of NSW (36.8%, 2,957), and NSW (37.9%, 11,256). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, South Western Sydney (49.7%, 2,483) recorded the highest percentage. Meanwhile, for the GWS LGAs of Hawkesbury (57.5%, 96), Wollondilly (53.5%, 46), Fairfield (52.8%, 637), Cumberland (50.9%, 955), and Liverpool (50.6%, 376), more than half of their respective applicable populations experiencing homelessness were not in the labour force.

Meanwhile, close to one in three (31.9%, 3,093) were employed among persons experiencing homelessness in GWS aged 15 and over. This percentage is higher than that of the Rest of NSW (29.1%, 2,340) but lower than Greater Sydney (34.5%, 7,483) and NSW (33.1%, 9,821). The DCJ District of Western Sydney (35.8%, 1,409) had the highest percentage out of the three GWS DCJ Districts. Employment was most common for the following GWS LGAs: The Hills Shire (45.1%, 74), Blacktown (41.1%, 483), and Parramatta (39.8%, 288). For these three LGAs, being employed was the most common labour force status among persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over.

Finally, 6.8% (657) of the applicable population among persons experiencing homelessness in GWS were unemployed.<sup>59</sup> This is lower compared to Greater Sydney (7.0%, 1,511), the Rest of NSW (8.0%, 644), and NSW (7.3%, 2,157). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, unemployment among persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over was most common in South Western Sydney (7.3%, 364). The same district had the highest percentage of non-participation in the labour force. Among the 13 GWS LGAs, Wollondilly (12.8%, 11), Camden (12.0%, 13), and Hawkesbury (8.4%, 14) recorded the highest percentages, with Canterbury-Bankstown (8.1%, 177) following closely behind. Wollondilly, Camden, and Hawkesbury also recorded some of the highest percentages of non-participation in the labour force for this cohort.

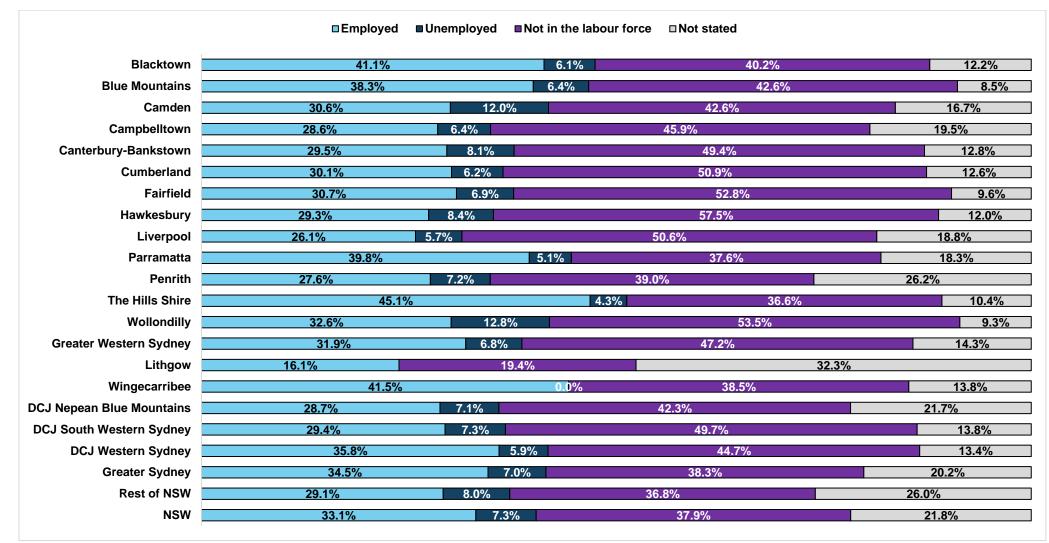
https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/glossary/n#not-in-the-labour-force. <sup>59</sup> 14.3% (1,384) did not state their response.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Labour force status (LFSP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work/labour-force-status-lfsp</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> According to the ABS, 'They include people who were performing unpaid home duties, caring for children, retired, voluntarily inactive, permanently unable to work, in jail, trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and people whose only activity during the week prior to Census Night was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.' For more information, please refer to

## FIGURE 23. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



As for persons marginally housed in GWS in 2021, there were 13,101 individuals aged 15 and over, making this the total applicable population for this section.<sup>60</sup> Of the applicable population among persons marginally housed in GWS, half (50.8%, 6,659) were not in the labour force (see Figure 24 and Appendix 11.2). This percentage is higher than that of Greater Sydney (46.4%, 9,097), the Rest of NSW (48.7%, 3,071), and NSW (46.9%, 12,166). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, persons marginally housed aged 15 and over in South Western Sydney (55.4%, 4,031) were most likely not to be in the labour force. Liverpool (60.6%, 660), the Blue Mountains (59.3%, 16), Fairfield (59.0%, 1,340), and Canterbury-Bankstown (54.8%, 1,579) recorded the highest percentages across the 13 GWS LGAs, all of which exceeded 50.0%.

Four in ten (40.2%, 5,264) persons marginally housed in GWS aged 15 and over were employed, which means that employment was more prevalent for GWS' marginally housed population than its homeless population. GWS' percentage (40.2%, 5,264) was lower than that of Greater Sydney (44.2%, 8,678) and the state average (42.7%, 11,061) but higher than that of the Rest of NSW (37.7%, 2,378). The DCJ District of Western Sydney (46.3%, 2,386) recorded the highest percentage out of the three GWS DCJ Districts. Of the 13 GWS LGAs, three LGAs recorded percentages of above 50.0%, which means that more than half of persons marginally housed aged 15 and over within these LGAs were employed. These LGAs were The Hills Shire (57.3%, 102), Parramatta (56.1%, 433) and the Blue Mountains (55.6%, 15). For The Hills Shire and Parramatta, being employed was the most common labour force status among persons marginally housed aged 15 and over.

Of all persons marginally housed in GWS aged 15 and over, 6.3% (827) were unemployed, a percentage lower than Greater Sydney (6.4%, 1,253), the Rest of NSW (7.8%, 490), and NSW (6.8%, 1,752).<sup>61</sup> Unemployment was most prevalent among the marginally housed population in Western Sydney (6.4%, 331) out of the three GWS DCJ Districts, but the percentages did not vary significantly. Eight of the 13 GWS LGAs recorded percentages above the GWS average (6.3%, 827), with Wollondilly (9.2%, 9), Parramatta (8.0%, 62), Camden (6.7%, 13), and Cumberland (6.7%, 184) recording the highest percentages. Wollondilly (12.8%, 11) and Camden (12.0%, 13) also recorded the highest percentages of unemployment among their respective homeless populations across the 13 GWS LGAs.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). Labour force status (LFSP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work/labour-force-status-lfsp</u>
 <sup>61</sup> 2.8% (367) did not state their response.



#### FIGURE 24. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS,

2021

	□ Employed ■ Unemplo	oyed ■Not in the labour force	□Not stated		
Blacktown	48.2%	5.1%	44.2%		<b>2.2%</b>
Blue Mountains	55.6%	0.0%	59.3%		
Camden	44.8%	6.7%	41.8%		7.7%
Campbelltown	42.2%	6.5%	45.6%		4.1%
Canterbury-Bankstown	35.0%	6.4%	54.8%		3.7%
Cumberland	41.8%	6.7%	48.3%		3.3%
Fairfield	33.7%	6.0%	59.0%		1.6%
Hawkesbury	44.7%	3.1%	47.8%		5.6%
Liverpool	32.2%	32.2% 6.4%			
Parramatta	56.1%		8.0%	35.0%	2.2%
Penrith	47.0%	6.5%	4:	3.7%	4.0%
The Hills Shire	57.3%		6.2%	37.6%	
Wollondilly	33.7%	9.2%	49.0%		5.1%
Greater Western Sydney	40.2%	6.3%	50.8%	0	2.8%
Lithgow	36.1%	12.0%	56.6	\$%	
Wingecarribee	64.8%		5.7%	29.5%	8.0%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	45.8%	6.2%	46.	3%	3.8%
DCJ South Western Sydney	35.5%	6.3%	55.4%		2.8%
DCJ Western Sydney	46.3%	6.4%	4	4.8%	2.7%
Greater Sydney	44.2%	6.4%	46	.4%	3.0%
Rest of NSW	37.7%	7.8%	48.7%		5.7%
NSW	42.7%	6.8%	46.9	9%	3.6%

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



### Weekly personal income

The 'Total personal income (weekly)' variable in 2021 records the total income a person usually receives each week in ranges.<sup>62</sup> As with the previous section on labour force status, this variable is applicable only to persons aged 15 and over, which comprises 9,695 individuals in GWS within this age group who were experiencing homelessness. As shown in Figure 25 (also see Appendix 12.1), the most common income range for GWS was the \$500-\$900 income range, accounting for 26.1% (2,528) of its applicable population experiencing homelessness. This was followed closely by the \$1-\$499 income range at 26.0% (2,524) and then by the nil and negative income range at 16.8% (1,629). This shows that, for GWS' applicable population experiencing homelessness in ten (68.9%, 6,681) recorded an income within the three lowest ranges or below \$1,000 and only 15.5% (1,502) recorded incomes of \$1,000 and above.

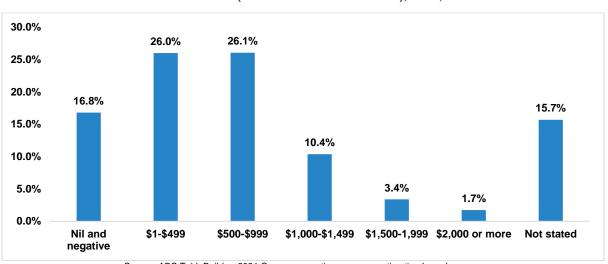


FIGURE 25. PERSONAL WEEKLY INCOME OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, 2021

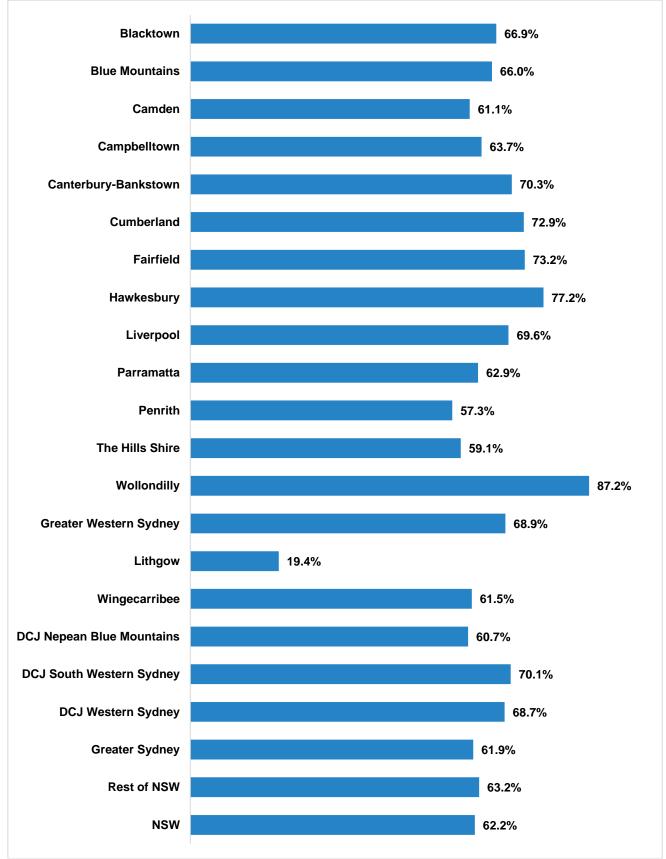
Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.

Persons experiencing homelessness in GWS (68.9%, 6,681) aged 15 and over were more likely to earn below \$1,000 weekly than Greater Sydney (61.9%, 13,403), the Rest of NSW (63.2%, 5,076), and NSW (62.2%, 18,477) (see Figure 26). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, South Western Sydney (70.1%, 3,498) recorded the highest percentage. Meanwhile, Wollondilly (87.2%, 75), Hawkesbury (77.2%, 129), and Fairfield (73.2%, 883) recorded the highest percentages among the 13 GWS LGAs.

<sup>62</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Total personal income (weekly) (INCP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work/total-personal-income-weekly-incp</u> The ABS includes sixteen categories under this variable. To make the analysis more succinct, this research report combines multiple categories, creating six categories with equal intervals of \$499 (\$25,999 annually).



#### FIGURE 26. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO EARNED LESS THAN \$1,000 WEEKLY (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





As for persons marginally housed in GWS, 13,101 individuals were aged 15 and over. Figure 27 (also see Appendix 12.2) shows that the most common income range for GWS was the \$500-\$900 income range, which accounted for 30.2% (3,956) of persons marginally housed in GWS aged 15 and over. The second and third most common income ranges were the \$1-\$499 at 27.7% (3,624) and nil and negative income at 18.6% (2,437). This means that, among persons marginally housed in GWS aged 15 and over, more than seven in ten (76.5%, 10,017) had an income below \$1,000. Meanwhile, 19.0% (2,489) recorded incomes of at least \$1,000.

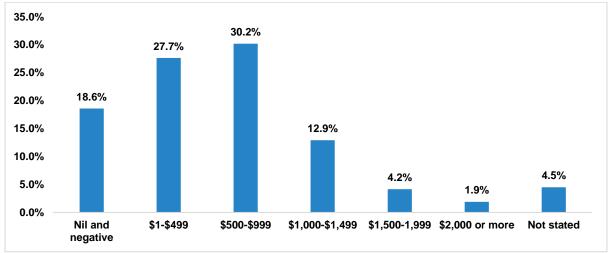


FIGURE 27. PERSONAL WEEKLY INCOME OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, 2021

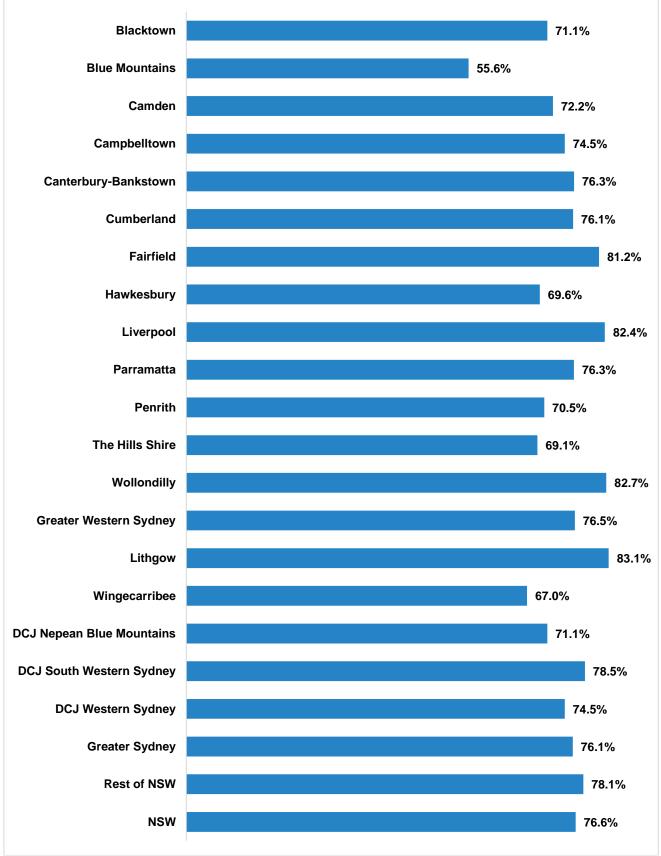
GWS' percentage of persons marginally housed aged 15 and over who recorded incomes of below \$1,000 (76.5%, 10,017) was smaller than that of the Rest of NSW (78.1%, 4,928) and NSW (76.6%, 19,858) but higher than that of Greater Sydney (76.1%, 14,917) (see Figure 28). As with the cohorts experiencing homelessness, of the three GWS DCJ Districts, South Western Sydney (78.5%, 5,705) recorded the highest percentage of persons marginally housed aged 15 had over who had weekly incomes below \$1,000. This is reflected at the LGA level, wherein Wollondilly (82.7%, 81), Liverpool (82.4%, 897), and Fairfield (81.2%, 1,846) recorded the highest percentages among the 13 GWS LGAs. Wollondilly (87.2%, 75) and Fairfield (73.2%, 883) also recorded the highest percentages of persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over with incomes below \$1,000.

Findings for both cohorts in GWS indicate that it was more likely for persons marginally housed to earn less than \$1,000 weekly and even have negative and nil income than persons experiencing homelessness. Persons living in marginal housing may not necessarily fall within the homeless category and, therefore, may not have the same access to financial support as their counterparts experiencing homelessness.



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.

## FIGURE 28. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO EARNED LESS THAN \$1,000 WEEKLY (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.



### **Educational attainment**

Similar to the sections on labour force status and weekly income, the 'Level of Highest Educational Attainment' variable is only applicable to persons aged 15 and over. It 'records a single measure of a person's overall highest level of educational attainment, whether it be a school or non-school qualification'.<sup>63</sup>

In GWS, there were 9,695 persons aged 15 and over experiencing homelessness, making this the applicable population for this section. Figure 29 (also see Appendix 13.1) shows that the most common category was 'Secondary Education – Years 10 and above' at 39.4% (3,823). This was followed by 'Secondary Education – Years 9 and below' (10.2%, 986) and 'Bachelor Degree' and 'Certificate III & IV' both at 7.8% (755 for 'Bachelor Degree' and 752 for 'Certificate III & IV'). More than one in ten (11.9%, 1,156) persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over had a 'Bachelor Degree' or higher (see Figure 30).

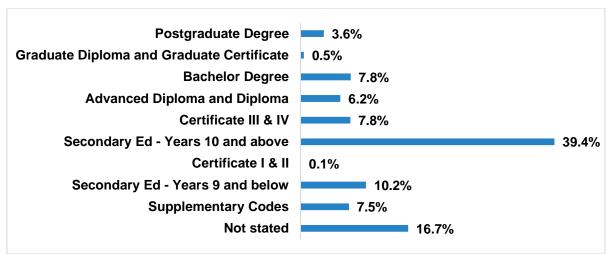


FIGURE 29. LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, 2021

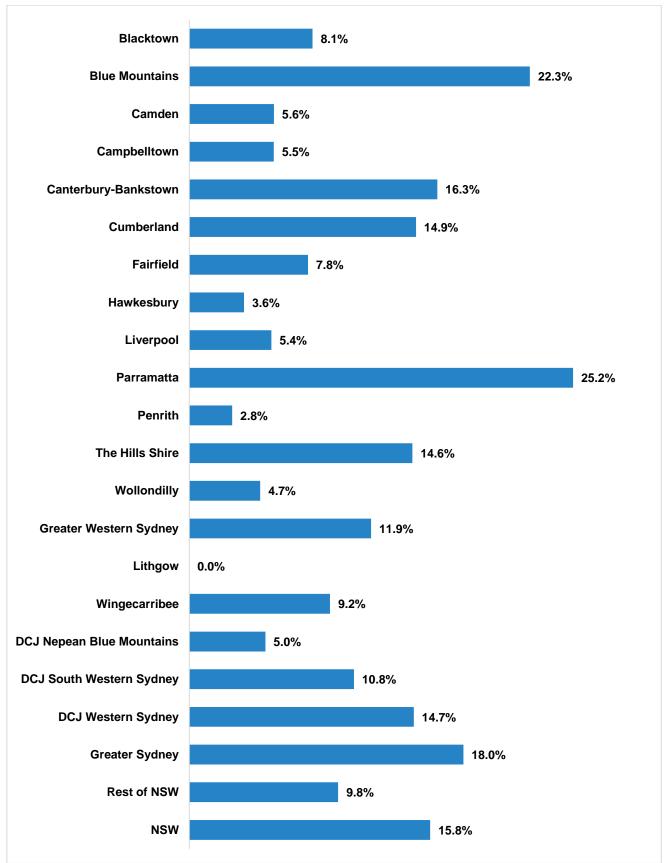
Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.

The percentage of persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over who had a 'Bachelor Degree' or higher for GWS (11.9%, 1,156) was higher than the Rest of NSW (9.8%, 785) but lower than Greater Sydney (18.0%, 3,895) and NSW (15.8%, 4,693). Of the three GWS DCJ Districts, Western Sydney (14.7%, 580) had the highest percentage. Parramatta (25.2%, 182), the Blue Mountains (22.3%, 21), and Canterbury-Bankstown (16.3%, 356) recorded the highest percentages among the 13 GWS LGAs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, October 15). *Level of highest educational attainment (HEAP) | Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <u>https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/education-and-training/level-highest-educational-attainment-heap</u>

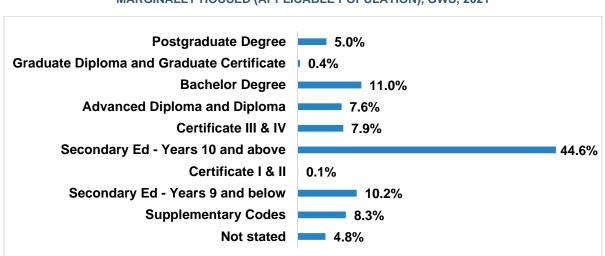


#### FIGURE 30. PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO HAD BACHELOR LEVEL DEGREE OR HIGHER (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





Of all persons marginally housed in GWS, 13,101 were aged 15 and over, making this the applicable population for this section. Close to half (44.6%, 5,843) of the applicable population had their level of highest educational attainment as 'Secondary Education - Years 10 and above' (see Figure 31 and Appendix 13.2). This was followed by 'Bachelor Degree' (11.0%, 1,441) and 'Secondary Education - Years 9 and below' (10.2%, 1,339). In addition, 16.4% (2,154) of persons marginally housed aged 15 and over had an educational attainment of a 'Bachelor Degree' or higher. This was higher than the percentage for persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over in GWS (11.9%, 1,156) (see Figure 32).



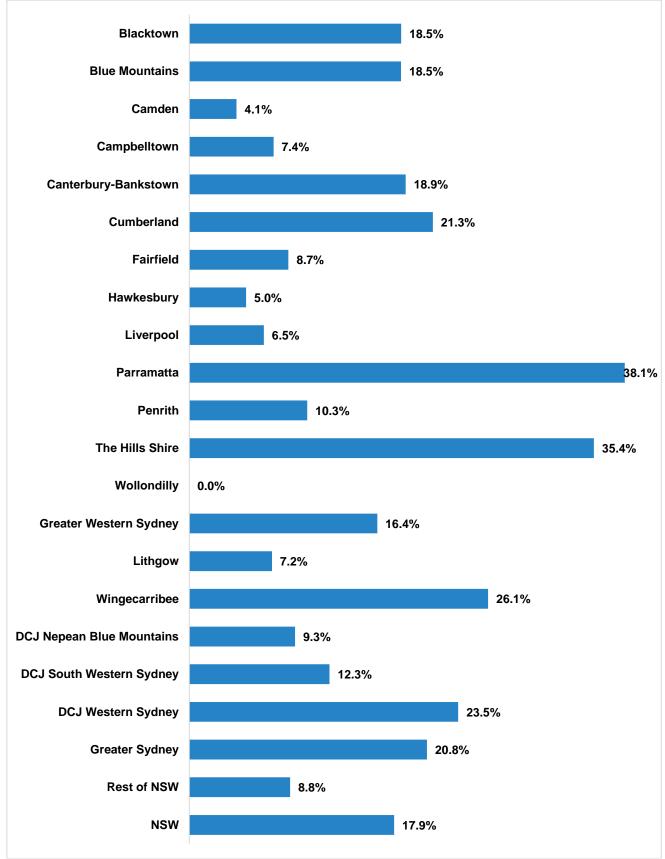
#### FIGURE 31. LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, 2021

Persons marginally housed aged 15 and over in GWS (16.4%, 2,154) were more likely to have a 'Bachelor Degree' or higher than those in the Rest of NSW (8.8%, 556) but less likely than those in Greater Sydney (20.8%, 4,076) and the state overall (17.9%, 4,642). Western Sydney (23.5%, 1,213) had the highest percentage of the three GWS DCJ Districts. Of the 13 GWS LGAs, Parramatta (38.1%, 294), The Hills Shire (35.4%, 63), and Cumberland (21.3%, 587) had the highest percentage of persons experiencing homelessness aged 15 and over who had a 'Bachelor Degree' or higher (25.2%, 182).



Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: Percentages may not sum to 100%.

#### FIGURE 32. PERSONS MARGINALLY HOUSED WHO HAD BACHELOR LEVEL DEGREE OR HIGHER (APPLICABLE POPULATION), GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2021





## Support services in NSW

After discussing the demographic characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed in GWS, this report tackles the demand, provision, and referral of support services. Data from this section was sourced from the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Collection through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). It records the number of distinct clients, specifically people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, supported by non-government organisations, including agencies providing generalist or specialist services.<sup>64</sup> A client is 'any person who receives a service from a SHS agency with the intention of responding to, or preventing, homelessness' and 'can be of any age, as long as they receive a direct service from a SHS agency'.<sup>65</sup>

## Number of Specialist Homelessness Services clients by LGA

This section uses the 'Client location—LGA' data cube, which indicates the LGA where the client resided in the week before their first support period in the financial year.<sup>66</sup> This means that, regardless of whether the client accessed multiple support periods within the same financial year from a different LGA, only the first reported LGA is captured.<sup>67</sup> It is also worth noting that this dataset is based on the 2023 edition of LGA boundaries from the ABS.<sup>68</sup> This is a deviation from the majority of this paper (see Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney and Demographics of persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed in Greater Western Sydney), which is based on the 2021 LGA boundaries. Please refer to Appendix 14.1 and Appendix 14.2 for more information on how Greater Sydney and the Rest of NSW figures were derived.

In 2023-24, there were a total of 14,971 SHS clients residing in GWS (see Table 2). This was an increase from 2021-22 (14,897) but a decrease from 2022-23 (15,309). Although both SHS and ABS Census datasets recorded counts of at least 10,000 (see Appendix 1.1 and Table 2), there were more persons recorded within the SHS dataset. The differences in counts were much greater across larger regions. For instance, the number of SHS clients in NSW from 2018-19 to 2023-24 was at least 60,000. In the 2021 Census, 34,982 persons were estimated to be experiencing homelessness, while 32,929 persons were estimated to be in marginal housing in NSW (see Table 3). When counts for both populations are combined, the figures are much closer to the state totals in the SHS dataset. ABS' homelessness estimates being lower than SHS clients may imply that those who access SHS do not necessarily fall into the statistical definition of homelessness.

<sup>66</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024). Specialist Homelessness Services Collection data cubes user guide 2011–12 to 2023–24. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/379b3230-ee4d-40f5-beb5-46369606a210/ahiw-hou-302-user-guide.pdf.aspx</u>,

p. 30 <sup>67</sup> Ibid., p. 2 <sup>68</sup> Ibid., p. 30



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, June 27). *Homelessness services: Overview*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-services/overview</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Manual*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/43f4e03d-d229-46ae-938a-b508aff89e26/shs-collection-manual-2023.pdf.aspx</u>, p. 5

Regions	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022-23	2023-24
Blacktown	2,618	2,563	2,576	2,775	2,751	2,613
Blue Mountains	527	402	508	617	583	529
Camden	457	241	237	317	293	308
Campbelltown	2,308	2,117	2,034	2,161	2,280	2,376
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,899	1,905	1,787	1,888	2,064	1,677
Cumberland	999	1,151	1,051	1,041	1,129	1,023
Fairfield	946	942	883	784	748	679
Hawkesbury	541	521	520	488	412	397
Liverpool	1,442	1,411	1,368	1,425	1,436	1,296
Parramatta	932	849	725	769	876	1,033
Penrith	2,013	1,931	2,201	2,073	2,252	2,589
The Hills Shire	236	261	292	276	277	275
Wollondilly	433	249	263	283	208	176
Greater Western Sydney	15,351	14,543	14,445	14,897	15,309	14,971
Lithgow	300	327	364	329	281	317
Wingecarribee	432	248	246	232	178	133
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	3,381	3,181	3,593	3,507	3,528	3,832
DCJ South Western Sydney	7,917	7,113	6,818	7,090	7,207	6,645
DCJ Western Sydney	4,785	4,824	4,644	4,861	5,033	4,944
Greater Sydney	27,875	26,035	25,619	25,473	26,517	26,172
Rest of NSW	39,046	37,354	38,692	37,085	35,086	35,184
NSW	66,921	63,389	64,311	62,558	61,603	61,356

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES CLIENTS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2018-19 TO2023-24

Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Client geography: LGA (2014-15 to 2021-22), Client geography: LGA (2022-23 and 2023-24), Client geography: state/territory (historical), and Client geography: state/territory (2022-23 and 2023-24) <a href="https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml">https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</a>



Blacktown (2,613), Penrith (2,589), and Campbelltown (2,376) recorded the highest numbers of SHS clients among GWS LGAs in 2023-24 (see Table 2). The same LGAs recorded the highest counts of SHS clients since 2018-19. However, trends from the SHS data and the ABS homelessness estimates differ.

Table 3 compares 2021 Census data and 2020-21 SHS data.<sup>69</sup> As discussed, Canterbury-Bankstown (2,706), Cumberland (2,216), and Blacktown (1,604) recorded the highest counts of persons experiencing homelessness in the 2021 Census (see Persons experiencing homelessness and Appendix 1.2). Canterbury-Bankstown (3,776) and Cumberland (3,376) also had the two highest counts of persons marginally housed, but Fairfield (3,030) ranked third (see Persons marginally housed and Appendix 1.4).

Aside from deviations due to the ABS' methodology, it could also imply that persons experiencing homelessness or those marginally housed are more likely to access services from major service hubs like Blacktown, Campbelltown, and Penrith. In turn, they may choose to reside intermittently in these locations. These LGAs are also representative of each of the three GWS DCJ Districts. This may imply that the number of SHS clients or populations experiencing homelessness in certain areas may be linked to the presence of SHS sites or other support services.

The total number of SHS clients in 2023-24 within NSW (61,356) reflects a percentage-decrease of -0.4% from 2022-23 (1-year) and -8.3% from 2018-19 (5-year) (see Figure 33 and Figure 34). This coincides with the overall trend for NSW in the 2021 Census, which recorded percentage-decreases of -7.2% and -11.7% from the 2016 Census for the counts of persons experiencing homelessness and persons marginally housed, respectively (see Figure 2, Figure 5, Appendix 1.2, and Appendix 1.4).

Trends varied at the LGA level. In 2023-24, certain LGAs witnessed 1-year and 5year percentage-increases in the number of SHS clients. Of the four GWS LGAs that recorded 1-year percentage-increases, Parramatta (+17.9%) and Penrith (+15.0%) recorded the highest values (see Figure 33). Meanwhile, Penrith (+28.6%), The Hills Shire (+16.5%), and Parramatta (+10.8%) recorded the highest values among the six LGAs with 5-year percentage-increases (see Figure 34). The GWS region overall recorded decreases in its 1-year and 5-year percentage changes (-2.2% and -2.5%, respectively). While the number of clients at the regional level decreased, increases at the LGA level underscore the fact that frontline homelessness services are struggling to cope with the rising demand, particularly at the local level.<sup>70</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> 2020-21 SHS data was chosen here as it is closest to the 2021 Census date, 10 August 2021.
 <sup>70</sup> Al Nashar, N. (2024, February 13). Homelessness 'crisis' rises as much as 127pc in some areas of NSW. *ABC News*. <u>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-13/nsw-homelessness-rise-figures/103460374</u>



Regions	Persons experiencing homelessness 2021 Census	Persons marginally housed 2021 Census	Number of SHS clients 2020-21 SHS Data
Blacktown	1,604	2,001	2,584
Blue Mountains	121	38	509
Camden	136	267	243
Campbelltown	812	952	2,034
Canterbury-Bankstown	2,706	3,776	1,763
Cumberland	2,216	3,376	1,048
Fairfield	1,571	3,030	881
Hawkesbury	239	220	515
Liverpool	1,025	1,519	1,367
Parramatta	814	952	726
Penrith	791	776	2,205
The Hills Shire	209	230	287
Wollondilly	109	123	262
Greater Western Sydney	12,353	17,260	14,424
Lithgow	30	129	364
Wingecarribee	78	118	244
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	1,181	1,163	3,593
DCJ South Western Sydney	6,437	9,785	6,794
DCJ Western Sydney	4,843	6,559	4,645
Greater Sydney	25,129	24,848	25,618
Rest of NSW	9,838	8,079	38,688
NSW	34,982	32,929	64,306

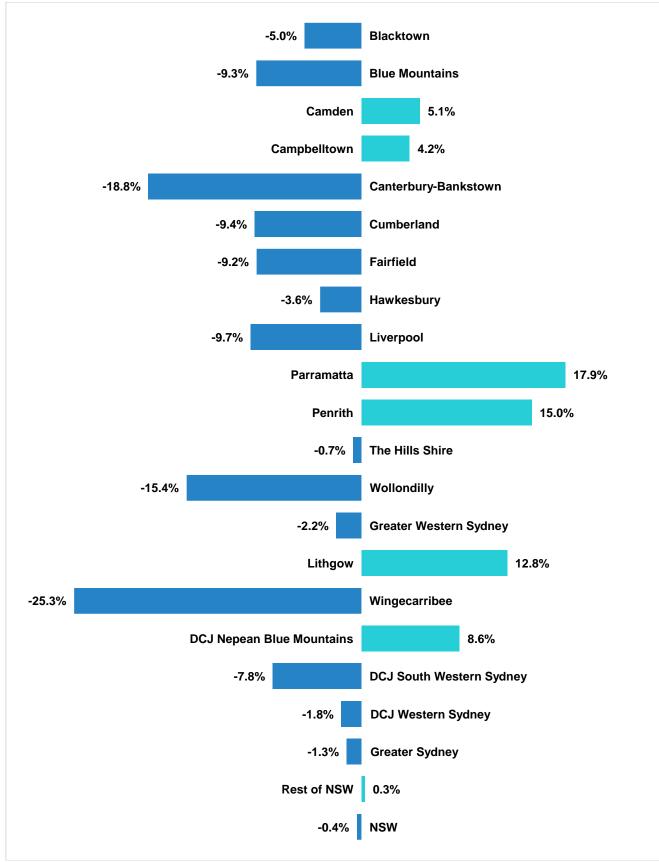
# TABLE 3. COMPARISON BETWEEN CENSUS DATA (HOMELESSNESS AND MARGINAL HOUSING) AND SHS DATA (SHS CLIENTS), 2021 AND 2020-21

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area,

https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessnesscensus/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx; AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Client geography: LGA (2014-15 to 2021-22), Client geography: LGA (2022-23 and 2023-24), Client geography: state/territory (2014-15 to 2021-22), and Client geography: state/territory (2022-23 and 2023-24) https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



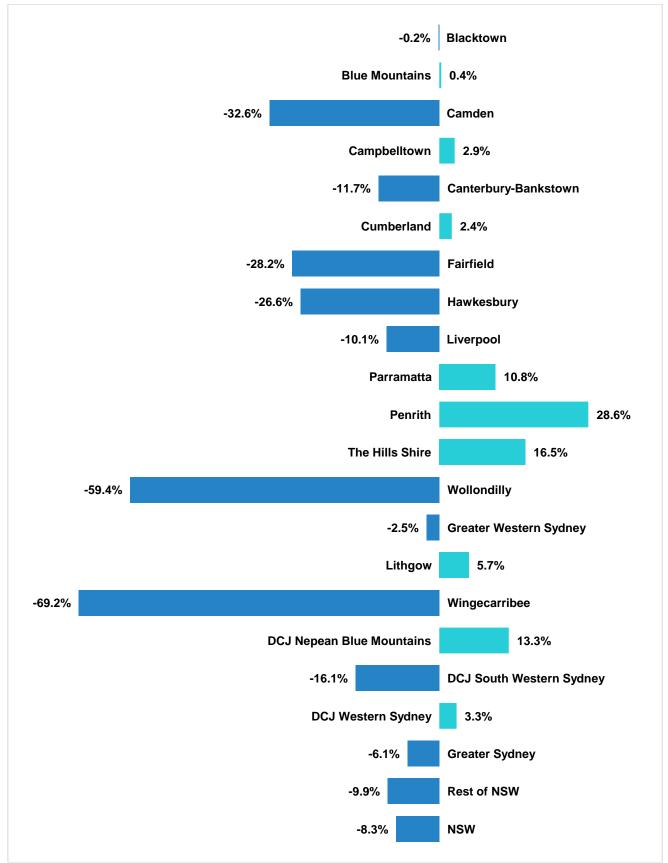
# FIGURE 33. PERCENTAGE CHANGES (1-YEAR), NUMBER OF SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES CLIENTS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2022-23 TO 2023-24



Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Client geography: LGA (2014-15 to 2021-22), Client geography: LGA (2022-23 and 2023-24), Client geography: state/territory (2014-15 to 2021-22), and Client geography: state/territory (2022-23 and 2023-24) <a href="https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml">https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</a>



# FIGURE 34. PERCENTAGE CHANGES (5-YEAR), NUMBER OF SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES CLIENTS, GWS, GWS LGAS, AND COMPARATIVE REGIONS, 2018-19 TO 2023-24



Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Client geography: LGA (2014-15 to 2021-22), Client geography: LGA (2022-23 and 2023-24), Client geography: state/territory (2014-15 to 2021-22), and Client geography: state/territory (2022-23 and 2023-24) <a href="https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml">https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</a>



## Types of support services accessed

From findings about the location of SHS clients, this section provides a deeper context into homelessness in NSW by looking into the demand for services. A limitation, however, of this section is that it uses state-level data. This is due to the unavailability of client location data for the variables used in this section.<sup>71</sup> Despite this limitation, these findings remain relevant, especially from a service provision lens.

In 2023-24, there were 67,894 clients in NSW recorded in the 'Support services' data cube, which reflects a small percentage-decrease of -0.7% from 68,386 in 2022-23 (see Figure 35). The figure below shows that a sharp increase occurred from 2014-15 to 2015-16 (percentage-increase of +44.5%) and that the number of clients has continuously decreased since 2020-21.<sup>72</sup>

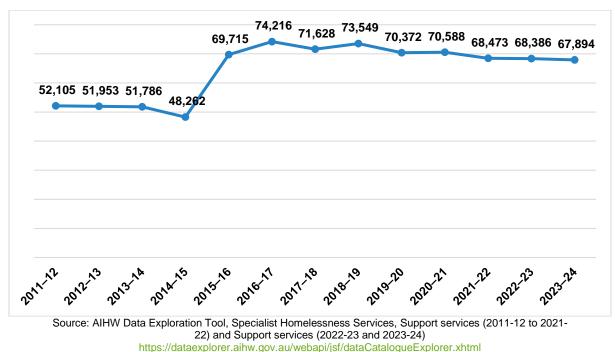


FIGURE 35. NUMBER OF CLIENTS, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24 ('SUPPORT SERVICES' DATA CUBE)

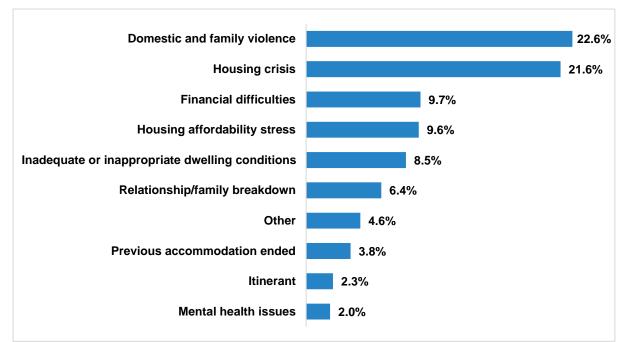
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Perturbation is applied to the 'Support services' data cube. 'Therefore, for these cubes, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals, and data in these cubes may not match other AIHW published sources.' Ibid., p. 3



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024). *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection data cubes user guide 2011–12 to 2023–24.* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/379b3230-ee4d-40f5-beb5-46369606a210/ahiw-hou-302-user-guide.pdf.aspx, pp. 6-11

The main reasons for seeking assistance among clients in NSW were domestic and family violence (22.6%, 15,366), housing crisis (21.6%, 14,681), financial difficulties (9.7%, 6,599), housing affordability stress (9.6%, 6,499), inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (8.5%, 5,763), and relationship/family breakdown (6.4%, 4,337) (see Figure 36).



#### FIGURE 36. MAIN REASON FOR SEEKING ASSISTANCE (TOP 10), NSW, 2023-24

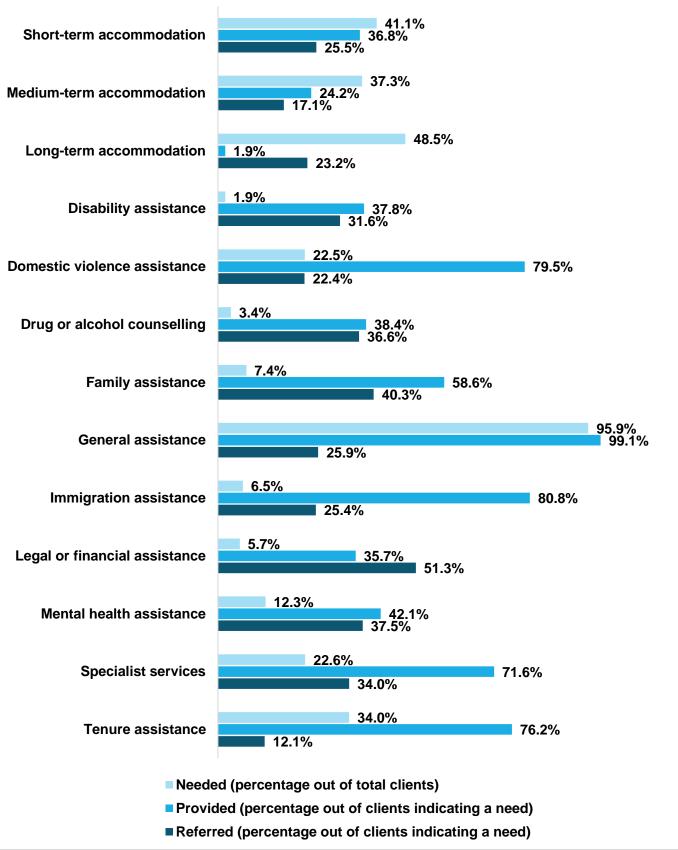
Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>

The succeeding sections discuss the demand, provision, and referral for various services needed by persons experiencing homelessness or persons at risk of homelessness. These services are accommodation, disability assistance, domestic violence assistance, drug or alcohol counselling, family assistance, general assistance, immigration assistance, legal or financial assistance, mental health assistance, specialist services, and tenure assistance.

Demand or need for a service is presented through the percentage of clients who indicated a need for a service. Provision involves a service being provided by an agency or central intake service.<sup>73</sup> This is presented through the percentage of clients needing a service who were provided that service. Referral, in these sections, is 'referral to other SHS providers if clients' needs cannot be met by initial SHS provider'.<sup>74</sup> This is presented through the percentage of clients needing a service who were referred. The percentages for 2023-24 across all service types are summarised in Figure 37.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024). Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23.
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <a href="https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/3e8872c8-a0a5-4440-bd64-fe8af2b3be06/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report-2022-23.pdf?v=20240229172419&inline=true">https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/3e8872c8-a0a5-4440-bd64-fe8af2b3be06/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report-2022-23.pdf?v=20240229172419&inline=true</a>, p. 15





Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



#### Accommodation

The AIHW's definition of accommodation services includes 'short-term or emergency accommodation, medium-term/transitional housing, assistance to obtain long term housing, assistance to sustain tenancy or prevent tenancy failure or eviction and assistance to prevent foreclosures or for mortgage arrears'.<sup>75</sup>

Figure 38 shows the percentages of clients who needed short-term accommodation, medium-term accommodation, and long-term accommodation from 2011-12 to 2023-24. While the need for short-term accommodation has remained relatively stable, the need for medium and long-term accommodation has been increasing, with long-term accommodation having a sharp increase from 2013-14 to 2015-16. In 2023-24, out of all clients in NSW, 41.1% (27,902) needed short-term accommodation, 37.3% (25,349) needed medium-term accommodation, and close to half (48.5%, 32,950) needed long-term accommodation. It is also important to note that, after general assistance, long-term accommodation, short-term accommodation, and medium-term accommodation were the most commonly reported needs among NSW clients (see Figure 37).

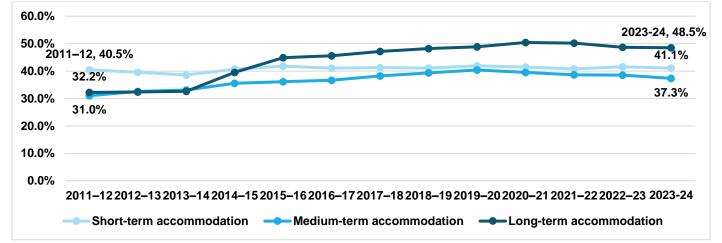
While the demand has been increasing, the provision of accommodation services across all three types decreased from 2011-12 to 2023-24. Out of all clients who needed short-term accommodation in 2011-12, 74.1% (15,631) were provided that type of accommodation. This percentage decreased to 36.8% (10,256) in 2023-24. Among all clients who needed medium-term accommodation in 2011-12, more than half (52.0%, 8,398) were provided accommodation of this type. This percentage decreased to 24.2% (6,129) in 2023-24. Finally, in 2011-12, 9.1% (1,527) of all clients who needed long-term accommodation were provided accommodation of this type. In 2023-24, this percentage became 1.9% (625).

Referrals also decreased from 2011-12 to 2023-24. For instance, of all clients needing short-term accommodation, 26.4% (5,577) and 25.5% (7,116) were referred in 2011-22 and 2023-24, respectively. The percentages of clients needing medium-term accommodation who were referred were 37.8% (6,112) in 2011-12 and 17.1% (4,331) in 2023-24, and the percentages of clients needing long-term accommodation who were referred were 54.7% (9,175) in 2011-12 and 23.2% (7,640) in 2023-24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023, August 15). *Homelessness services: Glossary*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-services/glossary</u>

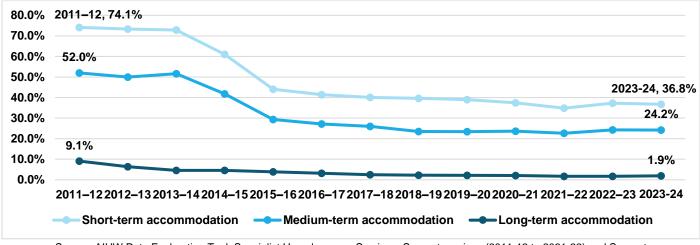


#### FIGURE 38. PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WHO NEEDED ACCOMMODATION, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24



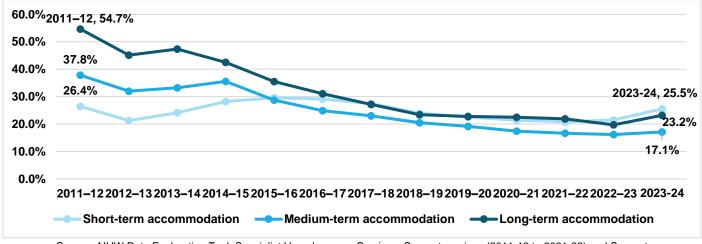
Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>

FIGURE 39. PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION WHO WERE PROVIDED ACCOMMODATION, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24



Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>





Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <a href="https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml">https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</a>



#### Disability assistance

The AIHW's SHS Collection collects information on whether and to what extent a disability or long-term health condition impacts or restricts a client's everyday activities in terms of the following areas:

- 'Self-care the client needs help/ supervision with self-care (for example, showering or bathing, dressing or undressing, using the toilet or eating food)',
- 'Mobility the client needs help/ supervision with mobility (for example, moving around the house, moving around outside the home, or getting into or out of a chair)',
- 'Communication the client needs help/ supervision with communication (for example, understanding or being understood by other people, including people they know)'.<sup>76</sup>

Demand for disability assistance among clients in NSW has remained relatively stable, with the percentage of clients who needed disability assistance being 1.5% (781) in 2011-12 and 1.9% (1,303) in 2023-24 (see Figure 41). Provision and referral decreased from 2011-12 to 2023-24, with some fluctuations. In 2023-24, of all clients needing disability assistance, 37.8% (493) were provided assistance and 31.6% (412) were referred. The percentages of clients in NSW who needed disability assistance and who were provided disability assistance were the same for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

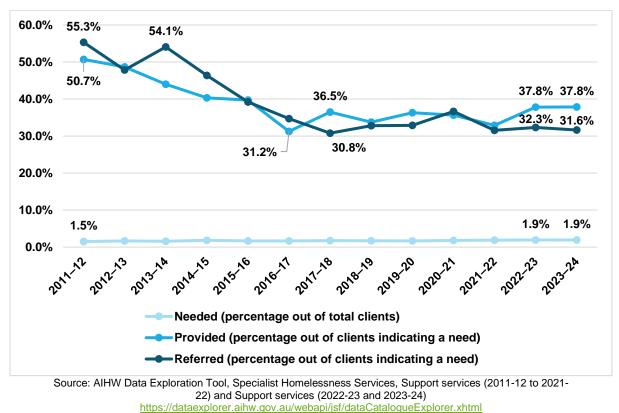


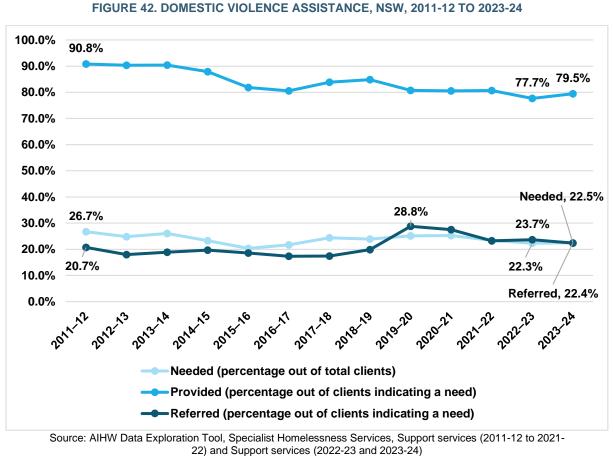
FIGURE 41. DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

<sup>76</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023, August 15). *Homelessness services: Glossary*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-services/glossary</u>



#### Domestic violence assistance

The need for domestic violence assistance among clients in NSW remained above 20.0% from 2011-12 to 2023-24, with the percentage of clients who needed domestic violence assistance being 22.5% (15,274) in 2023-24 (see Figure 42). This coincides with domestic and family violence being the most common reason for seeking assistance in 2023-24 among clients in NSW (see Figure 36). The provision of domestic violence assistance was relatively high compared to other services. In 2023-24, of all clients who needed domestic violence assistance, 79.5% (12,139) were provided assistance. This percentage, however, is a decrease from 2011-12 (90.8%, 12,643). Although, it is worth acknowledging that this is a slight increase from 77.7% (11,838) in 2022-23. Meanwhile, the percentage of clients needing domestic violence assistance who were referred had some fluctuations between 2011-12 and 2023-24, peaking in 2019-20 at 28.8% (5,095).



https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



#### Drug or alcohol counselling

The percentage of clients who needed drug or alcohol counselling decreased from 8.0% (4,154) in 2011-12 to 3.4% (2,287) in 2023-24, apart from peaking in 2012-13 at 8.6% (4,492) (see Figure 43). Of all clients needing drug or alcohol counselling, 38.4% (878) were provided assistance in 2023-24. While this was an increase from the financial year prior, 2022-23, at 34.8% (873), this was a considerable decrease from 2011-12 at 67.0% (2,783). The figure below shows a downward trend in the provision of drug or alcohol counselling, apart from another peak in 2017-18 at 48.2% (1,775). Meanwhile, the percentage of clients needing drug or alcohol counselling who were referred also decreased but was more stable, from 39.5% (1,641) in 2011-12 to 36.6% (836) in 2023-24.

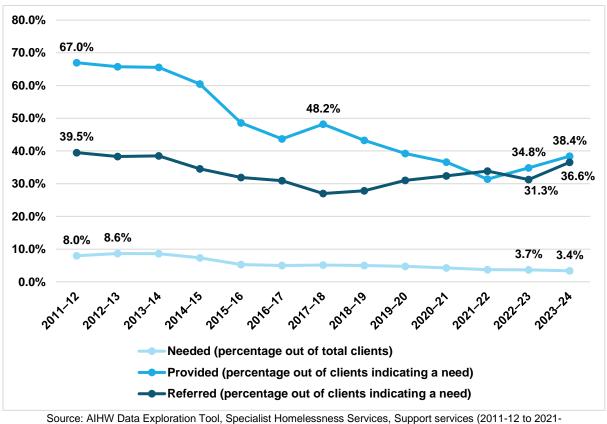


FIGURE 43. DRUG OR ALCOHOL COUNSELLING, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021 22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>



#### Family assistance

In 2023-24, 7.4% (5,016) of clients in NSW indicated a need for family assistance. This is a decrease from 2011-12 at 14.9% (7,782) and 2022-23 at 10.6% (7,245). Of those clients who indicated a need for this support service, 58.6% (2,939) were provided that service in 2023-24. This percentage is a decrease from 2011-12 (69.3%, 5,396); however, there has been a slight upward trend for this percentage since 2016-17 (53.9%, 4,140). The referral of clients needing family assistance also decreased from 2011-12 (54.7%, 4,259) to 2023-24 (40.3%, 2,023).

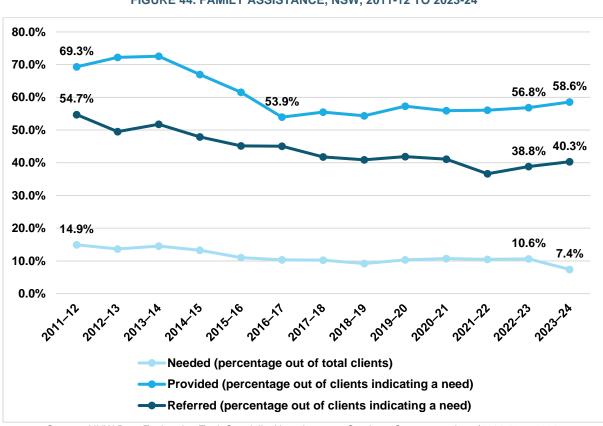


FIGURE 44. FAMILY ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24



Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>

#### General assistance

General assistance covers a range of services, from family/relationship assistance to transport and other basic assistance.<sup>77</sup> Because of the breadth of services it covers, this category is the most reported need among clients in NSW. In 2023-24, 95.9% (65,123) of clients in NSW indicated a need for general assistance. This percentage has been relatively stable since 2011-12 (95.7%, 49,850). Provision was also quite high for this support service. In 2023-24, 99.1% (64,535) of clients indicating a need for this service were provided general assistance. As for referrals, the percentage of clients indicating a need who were referred had a slight downward trend, from 34.8% (17,327) in 2011-12 to 25.9% (16,896) in 2023-24.

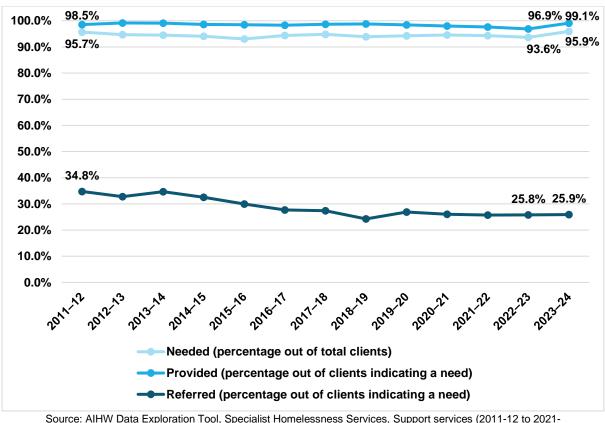


FIGURE 45. GENERAL ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Please refer to this page for the definition of general assistance: <u>https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-</u> services/glossary#:~:text=general%20services%3A,other%20basic%20assistance.



Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>

#### Immigration assistance

The need for immigration assistance was relatively uncommon among clients in NSW. In 2023-24, only 6.5% (4,398) of clients in the state reported a need for immigration assistance, a percentage the same as in 2022-23 (6.5%, 4,437). Although this is a decrease from 9.5% (4,961) in 2011-12, the percentage of clients who indicated a need for immigration assistance was somewhat stable. Of all clients indicating a need for immigration assistance in 2023-24, 80.8% (3,552) were provided support and 25.4% (1,116) were referred. Provision peaked in 2014-15 when the percentage of clients indicating a need who were provided immigration assistance was at 85.4% (3,237) in 2014-15, from 84.3% (4,180) in 2011-12. Referrals, on the other hand, peaked at 46.3% (2,144) in 2013-14 and reached its lowest point at 20.8% in 2018-19 (1,114).

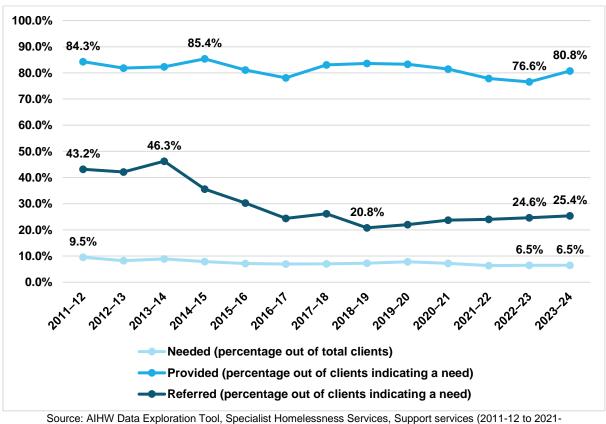


FIGURE 46. IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

urce: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 202 22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



#### Legal or financial assistance

Among all clients in NSW, 5.7% (3,846) indicated a need for legal or financial assistance in 2023-24. The need for legal or financial assistance was relatively stable compared to provision and referrals. However, the figure for 2023-24 (5.7%, 3,846) was a decrease from 2011-12 (13.0%, 6,789). Meanwhile, of all clients indicating a need for this service in 2023-24, 35.7% (1,372) were provided assistance and 51.3% (1,972) were referred. The referral for legal or financial assistance had a downward trend until 2020-21 and has been gradually increasing from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

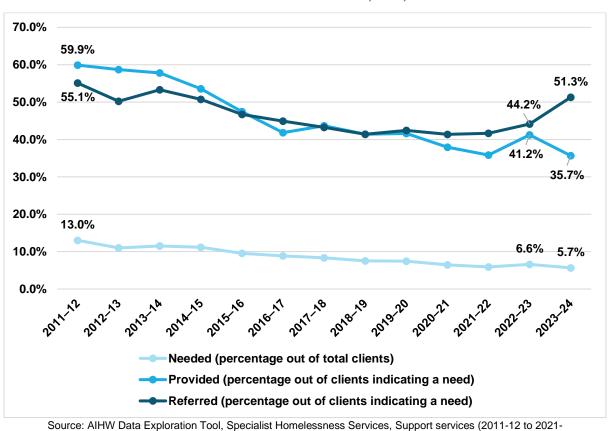


FIGURE 47. LEGAL OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

burce: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>



#### Mental health assistance

More than one in ten (12.3%, 8,380) of clients in NSW reported a need for mental health assistance in 2023-24. The need for mental health assistance has been relatively stable since 2011-12 (15.3%, 7,957). Meanwhile, both provision and referrals had a downward trend, but provision has been increasing slowly from 2021-22. The percentage of clients needing this service who were provided mental health assistance was 52.9% (4,210) in 2011-12 and 42.1% (3,531) in 2023-24. The percentage of clients needing this service who were referred was 57.3% (4,559) in 2011-12 and 37.5% (3,143) in 2023-24.

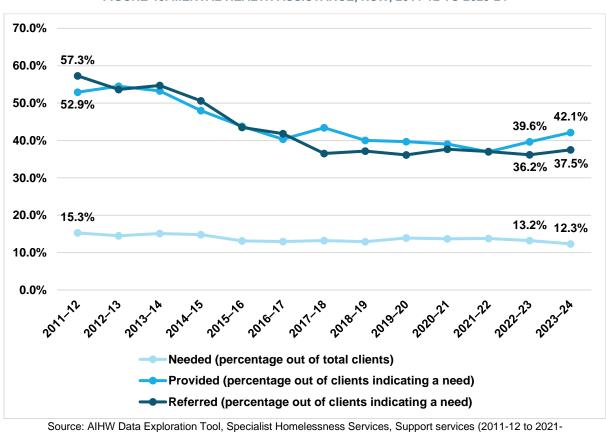


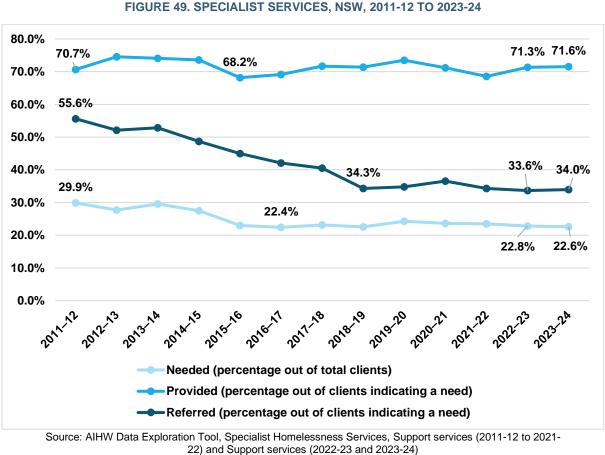
FIGURE 48. MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE, NSW, 2011-12 TO 2023-24

ource: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Support services (2011-12 to 2021-22) and Support services (2022-23 and 2023-24) <u>https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml</u>



#### **Specialist services**

In 2023-24, specialist services was the sixth most reported need among clients in NSW after general assistance, long-term accommodation, short-term accommodation, medium-term accommodation, and tenure assistance (see Figure 37). During this period, 22.6% (15,332) indicated a need for this service. The trend for the percentage of clients needing this service who were provided specialist services was quite stable since 2011-12 (70.7%, 11,011). In 2023-24, the percentage was 71.6% (10,971), and the lowest point was at 68.2% (10,925) in 2015-16. As for referrals, 34.0% (5,209) of clients indicating a need for specialist services were referred in 2023-24. This was the second lowest point for referrals after 2022-23 at 33.6% (5,251). A downward trend can be observed for the percentage of clients needing this service who were referred from 2011-12, reaching its third lowest point in 2018-19 at 34.3% (5,691).

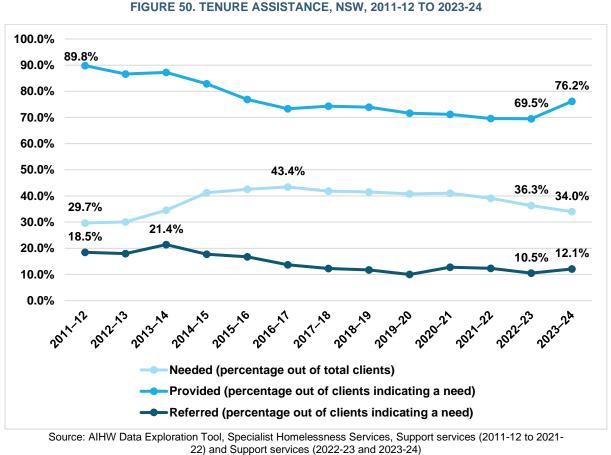


https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



#### Tenure assistance

Tenure assistance was the fifth most commonly reported service needed by clients in NSW (see Figure 37), with 34.0% (23,083) of clients indicating a need for tenure assistance in 2023-24. This refers to instances where 'client[s] had one or more support periods where a need for assistance to sustain tenure or prevent mortgage arrears was identified'.<sup>78</sup> The need for tenure assistance peaked in 2016-17 at 43.4% (32,243), which was a considerable increase from 2011-12 at 29.7% (15,469). The percentage of clients indicating a need for this service who were provided tenure assistance was 76.2% (17,580) in 2023-24, which is a decrease from 2011-12 (89.8%, 13,893) but an increase from 2022-23 (69.5%, (17,274). Meanwhile, the percentage of clients indicating a need for tenure assistance who were referred was 18.5% (2,860) in 2011-12 and 12.1% (2,792) in 2023-24, peaking at 21.4% (3,834) in 2013-14.



https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml

https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/379b3230-ee4d-40f5-beb5-46369606a210/ahiw-hou-302-user-guide.pdf.aspx, p. 92



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024). Specialist Homelessness Services Collection data cubes user guide 2011–12 to 2023–24. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/379b3230-ee4d-40f5-beb5-46369606a210/ahiw-hou-302-user-guide.pdf.aspx,

## Conclusion

The nature of homelessness is becoming increasingly complex. Although the estimates for homelessness and marginal housing decreased from 2016 to 2021 in GWS and the state overall, certain LGAs witnessed substantial increases. This is especially applicable to Camden, where the number of persons experiencing homelessness grew by 41.7% and the number of persons marginally housed more than doubled. Outside of the GWS region, the number of persons marginally housed in Lithgow more than tripled from 2016 to 2021, and Wingecarribee also witnessed an increase. Males, 0-24 year olds, persons born overseas, and persons using a language other than English at home accounted for almost or at least 40.0% of GWS' populations experiencing homelessness and marginally housed. Not being in the labour force was the most common labour force status among these populations.

An analysis of SHS data revealed that the number of SHS clients in GWS decreased slightly from 2022-23 to 2023-24, alongside an overall decrease at the state level. Certain GWS LGAs, such as Parramatta and Penrith, witnessed increases in the number of SHS clients from 2022-23 to 2023-24. As mentioned earlier, it is important to note that services historically were set up in certain areas, and this may impact the numbers in these LGAs. Domestic and family violence, housing crisis, financial difficulties, housing affordability stress, inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions, and relationship/family breakdown were the main reasons for seeking assistance. General assistance, long-term accommodation, short-term accommodation, medium-term accommodation, and tenure assistance were the most commonly reported types of services among NSW clients.

The findings from this paper have three key implications. First is that, although the number of persons experiencing homelessness or marginally housed at the state and GWS regional level decreased, it is not the case for some GWS LGAs. Even at the regional level, GWS witnessed a decrease in the number of SHS clients in between financial years, but some GWS LGAs recorded much larger spikes. This means that certain locations are bearing the brunt of the homelessness crisis. Second, this has a huge impact on local frontline services and the community sector as a whole, which is already struggling to keep up with demand. Third, culturally safe and sensitive interventions are much needed, given that certain demographic groups account for huge proportions of the homeless and marginally housed populations in GWS. Furthermore, this paper aims to assist local agencies and service providers in GWS in navigating the rapidly changing landscape of homelessness in the region.



## Appendices

## 1.1 Persons experiencing homelessness, categories, 2016 and 2021 (counts and percentage changes)

Categories		living in impr , tents, or sle			ple in suppor lation for the			aying tempor her househol		People liv	ing in boardin	g houses	People	in other tem lodgings	porary	People livin	g in 'severel dwellings	/' crowded
Regions	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change
Blacktown	77	13	-83.1%	217	244	12.4%	192	155	-19.3%	39	145	271.8%	-	31		1,013	1,013	0.0%
Blue Mountains	19	-	-100.0%	82	40	-51.2%	41	36	-12.2%	11	11	0.0%	4	-	-100.0%	11	30	172.7%
Camden	3	-	-100.0%	8	11	37.5%	32	32	0.0%	-	-		-	30		52	70	34.6%
Campbelltown	9	-	-100.0%	360	204	-43.3%	146	70	-52.1%	33	50	51.5%	7	6	-14.3%	373	468	25.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	11	-	-100.0%	207	164	-20.8%	160	81	-49.4%	279	326	16.8%	8	-	-100.0%	1,903	2,124	11.6%
Cumberland	47	15	-68.1%	231	113	-51.1%	121	43	-64.5%	213	241	13.1%	-	41		2,525	1,767	-30.0%
Fairfield	32	-	-100.0%	330	120	-63.6%	106	68	-35.8%	30	51	70.0%	-	-		1,724	1,327	-23.0%
Hawkesbury	18	-	-100.0%	84	71	-15.5%	44	32	-27.3%	-	-		-	15		86	124	44.2%
Liverpool	9	7	-22.2%	408	205	-49.8%	109	74	-32.1%	-	44		3	65	2066.7%	527	632	19.9%
Parramatta	23	12	-47.8%	163	151	-7.4%	93	72	-22.6%	89	88	-1.1%	-	28		617	470	-23.8%
Penrith	31	12	-61.3%	310	217	-30.0%	139	99	-28.8%	32	121	278.1%	-	-		379	343	-9.5%
The Hills Shire	-	-		18	9	-50.0%	53	41	-22.6%	8	13	62.5%	-	-		163	143	-12.3%
Wollondilly	10	4	-60.0%	3	-	-100.0%	28	25	-10.7%	-	31		-	4		25	44	76.0%
Greater Western Sydney	289	63	-78.2%	2,421	1,549	-36.0%	1,264	828	-34.5%	734	1,121	52.7%	22	220	900.0%	9,398	8,555	-9.0%
Lithgow	10	3	-70.0%	23	10	-56.5%	8	10	25.0%	11	4	-63.6%	-	-		13	3	-76.9%
Wingecarribee	7	-	-100.0%	17	11	-35.3%	36	26	-27.8%	8	-	-100.0%	4	-	-100.0%	21	45	114.3%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	78	15	-80.8%	499	338	-32.3%	232	177	-23.7%	54	136	151.9%	4	15	275.0%	489	500	2.2%
DCJ South Western Sydney	81	11	-86.4%	1,333	715	-46.4%	617	376	-39.1%	350	502	43.4%	22	105	377.3%	4,625	4,710	1.8%
DCJ Western Sydney	147	40	-72.8%	629	517	-17.8%	459	311	-32.2%	349	487	39.5%	-	100		4,318	3,393	-21.4%
Greater Sydney	1,315	179	-86.4%	3,980	2,931	-26.4%	2,751	1,644	-40.2%	5,763	7,492	30.0%	71	729	926.8%	15,115	12,154	-19.6%
Rest of NSW	1,274	775	-39.2%	1,864	2,103	12.8%	2,620	2,441	-6.8%	1,095	1,353	23.6%	147	690	369.4%	1,703	2,476	45.4%
NSW	2,584	956	-63.0%	5,843	5,038	-13.8%	5,366	4,088	-23.8%	6,853	8,839	29.0%	220	1,423	546.8%	16,821	14,640	-13.0%

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-</a>



## 1.2 Persons experiencing homelessness, totals and rates, 2016 and 2021 (counts and percentage changes)

Categories		oersons experie homelessness		Total popu	lation (usual r	esidence)	Number of ho	omeless perso people	ns per 10,000
Regions	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change
Blacktown	1,534	1,604	4.6%	336,965	396,776	17.7%	45.5	40.4	-11.2%
Blue Mountains	170	121	-28.8%	76,902	78,121	1.6%	22.1	15.5	-29.9%
Camden	96	136	41.7%	78,220	119,325	52.6%	12.3	11.4	-7.1%
Campbelltown	928	812	-12.5%	157,007	176,519	12.4%	59.1	46.0	-22.2%
Canterbury-Bankstown	2,582	2,706	4.8%	346,300	371,006	7.1%	74.6	72.9	-2.2%
Cumberland	3,129	2,216	-29.2%	216,077	235,439	9.0%	144.8	94.1	-35.0%
Fairfield	2,226	1,571	-29.4%	198,816	208,475	4.9%	112.0	75.4	-32.7%
Hawkesbury	231	239	3.5%	64,591	67,207	4.1%	35.8	35.6	-0.6%
Liverpool	1,058	1,025	-3.1%	204,330	233,446	14.2%	51.8	43.9	-15.2%
Parramatta	987	814	-17.5%	226,153	256,729	13.5%	43.6	31.7	-27.4%
Penrith	890	791	-11.1%	196,064	217,664	11.0%	45.4	36.3	-19.9%
The Hills Shire	251	209	-16.7%	157,243	191,876	22.0%	16.0	10.9	-31.8%
Wollondilly	65	109	67.7%	48,520	53,961	11.2%	13.4	20.2	50.8%
Greater Western Sydney	14,147	12,353	-12.7%	2,307,188	2,606,544	13.0%	61.3	47.4	-22.7%
Lithgow	60	30	-50.0%	21,090	20,842	-1.2%	28.4	14.4	-49.4%
Wingecarribee	92	78	-15.2%	47,878	52,709	10.1%	19.2	14.8	-23.0%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	1,351	1,181	-12.6%	358,647	383,834	7.0%	37.7	30.8	-18.3%
DCJ South Western Sydney	7,047	6,437	-8.7%	1,081,071	1,215,441	12.4%	65.2	53.0	-18.8%
DCJ Western Sydney	5,901	4,843	-17.9%	936,438	1,080,820	15.4%	63.0	44.8	-28.9%
Greater Sydney	28,995	25,129	-13.3%	4,823,993	5,231,147	8.4%	60.1	48.0	-20.1%
Rest of NSW	8,703	9,838	13.0%	2,643,535	2,829,637	7.0%	32.9	34.8	5.6%
NSW	37,692	34,982	-7.2%	7,480,230	8,072,163	7.9%	50.4	43.3	-14.0%

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx</a>



# **1.3. Persons experiencing homelessness, categories, 2016 and 2021 (percentages and percentage-point changes)**

Categories		living in impi , tents, or sle			ple in suppor lation for the			aying tempo her househol		People liv	ing in boardir	ng houses	People	in other tem lodgings	porary	People livin	ig in 'severel dwellings	y' crowded
Regions	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change
Blacktown	5.0%	0.8%	-4.2%	14.1%	15.2%	1.1%	12.5%	9.7%	-2.9%	2.5%	9.0%	6.5%	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%	66.0%	63.2%	-2.9%
Blue Mountains	11.2%	0.0%	-11.2%	48.2%	33.1%	-15.2%	24.1%	29.8%	5.6%	6.5%	9.1%	2.6%	2.4%	0.0%	-2.4%	6.5%	24.8%	18.3%
Camden	3.1%	0.0%	-3.1%	8.3%	8.1%	-0.2%	33.3%	23.5%	-9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.1%	22.1%	54.2%	51.5%	-2.7%
Campbelltown	1.0%	0.0%	-1.0%	38.8%	25.1%	-13.7%	15.7%	8.6%	-7.1%	3.6%	6.2%	2.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.0%	40.2%	57.6%	17.4%
Canterbury-Bankstown	0.4%	0.0%	-0.4%	8.0%	6.1%	-2.0%	6.2%	3.0%	-3.2%	10.8%	12.0%	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	73.7%	78.5%	4.8%
Cumberland	1.5%	0.7%	-0.8%	7.4%	5.1%	-2.3%	3.9%	1.9%	-1.9%	6.8%	10.9%	4.1%	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%	80.7%	79.7%	-1.0%
Fairfield	1.4%	0.0%	-1.4%	14.8%	7.6%	-7.2%	4.8%	4.3%	-0.4%	1.3%	3.2%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	77.4%	84.5%	7.0%
Hawkesbury	7.8%	0.0%	-7.8%	36.4%	29.7%	-6.7%	19.0%	13.4%	-5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%	37.2%	51.9%	14.7%
Liverpool	0.9%	0.7%	-0.2%	38.6%	20.0%	-18.6%	10.3%	7.2%	-3.1%	0.0%	4.3%	4.3%	0.3%	6.3%	6.1%	49.8%	61.7%	11.8%
Parramatta	2.3%	1.5%	-0.9%	16.5%	18.6%	2.0%	9.4%	8.8%	-0.6%	9.0%	10.8%	1.8%	0.0%	3.4%	3.4%	62.5%	57.7%	-4.8%
Penrith	3.5%	1.5%	-2.0%	34.8%	27.4%	-7.4%	15.6%	12.5%	-3.1%	3.6%	15.3%	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.6%	43.4%	0.8%
The Hills Shire	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%	4.3%	-2.9%	21.1%	19.6%	-1.5%	3.2%	6.2%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	64.9%	68.4%	3.5%
Wollondilly	15.4%	3.7%	-11.7%	4.6%	0.0%	-4.6%	43.1%	22.9%	-20.1%	0.0%	28.4%	28.4%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	38.5%	40.4%	1.9%
Greater Western Sydney	2.0%	0.5%	-1.5%	17.1%	12.5%	-4.6%	8.9%	6.7%	-2.2%	5.2%	9.1%	3.9%	0.2%	1.8%	1.6%	66.4%	69.3%	2.8%
Lithgow	16.7%	10.0%	-6.7%	38.3%	33.3%	-5.0%	13.3%	33.3%	20.0%	18.3%	13.3%	-5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.7%	10.0%	-11.7%
Wingecarribee	7.6%	0.0%	-7.6%	18.5%	14.1%	-4.4%	39.1%	33.3%	-5.8%	8.7%	0.0%	-8.7%	4.3%	0.0%	-4.3%	22.8%	57.7%	34.9%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	5.8%	1.3%	-4.5%	36.9%	28.6%	-8.3%	17.2%	15.0%	-2.2%	4.0%	11.5%	7.5%	0.3%	1.3%	1.0%	36.2%	42.3%	6.1%
DCJ South Western Sydney	1.1%	0.2%	-1.0%	18.9%	11.1%	-7.8%	8.8%	5.8%	-2.9%	5.0%	7.8%	2.8%	0.3%	1.6%	1.3%	65.6%	73.2%	7.5%
DCJ Western Sydney	2.5%	0.8%	-1.7%	10.7%	10.7%	0.0%	7.8%	6.4%	-1.4%	5.9%	10.1%	4.1%	0.0%	2.1%	2.1%	73.2%	<b>70.1%</b>	-3.1%
Greater Sydney	4.5%	0.7%	-3.8%	13.7%	11.7%	-2.1%	9.5%	6.5%	-2.9%	19.9%	29.8%	9.9%	0.2%	2.9%	2.7%	52.1%	48.4%	-3.8%
Rest of NSW	14.6%	7.9%	-6.8%	21.4%	21.4%	0.0%	30.1%	24.8%	-5.3%	12.6%	13.8%	1.2%	1.7%	7.0%	5.3%	19.6%	25.2%	5.6%
NSW	6.9%	2.7%	-4.1%	15.5%	14.4%	-1.1%	14.2%	11.7%	-2.6%	18.2%	25.3%	7.1%	0.6%	4.1%	3.5%	44.6%	41.9%	-2.8%

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx</a>

Note: Totals of percentages based on previous table, and some computations (for instance, %-point changes) may not correspond with the sum or difference of the separate figures due to rounding.



Categories	People living	g in other crowde	d dwellings	People in o	other improvised	dwellings	People who are	e marginally hous parks	ed in caravan
Regions	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change
Blacktown	2,258	1,990	-11.9%	83	11	-86.7%	68	-	-100.0%
Blue Mountains	94	34	-63.8%	13	4	-69.2%	-	-	
Camden	77	256	232.5%	23	-	-100.0%	8	11	37.5%
Campbelltown	786	945	20.2%	17	7	-58.8%	-	-	
Canterbury-Bankstown	3,725	3,776	1.4%	4	-	-100.0%	3	-	-100.0%
Cumberland	4,025	3,376	-16.1%	41	-	-100.0%	-	-	
Fairfield	3,104	2,999	-3.4%	52	3	-94.2%	29	28	-3.4%
Hawkesbury	152	167	9.9%	37	20	-45.9%	57	33	-42.1%
Liverpool	1,397	1,512	8.2%	29	7	-75.9%	7	-	-100.0%
Parramatta	1,116	949	-15.0%	-	-		4	3	-25.0%
Penrith	570	754	32.3%	51	11	-78.4%	26	11	-57.7%
The Hills Shire	312	230	-26.3%	29	-	-100.0%	12	-	-100.0%
Wollondilly	78	88	12.8%	29	9	-69.0%	36	26	-27.8%
Greater Western Sydney	17,694	17,076	-3.5%	408	72	-82.4%	250	112	-55.2%
Lithgow	13	116	792.3%	10	-	-100.0%	17	13	-23.5%
Wingecarribee	56	88	57.1%	18	13	-27.8%	15	17	13.3%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	829	1,071	29.2%	111	35	-68.5%	100	57	-43.0%
DCJ South Western Sydney	9,223	9,664	4.8%	172	39	-77.3%	98	82	-16.3%
DCJ Western Sydney	7,711	6,545	-15.1%	153	11	-92.8%	84	3	-96.4%
Greater Sydney	28,107	24,384	-13.2%	534	100	-81.3%	537	364	-32.2%
Rest of NSW	4,406	5,570	26.4%	1,228	543	-55.8%	2,467	1,966	-20.3%
NSW	32,512	29,956	-7.9%	1,763	642	-63.6%	3,000	2,331	-22.3%

## 2.1 Persons marginally housed, categories, 2016 and 2021 (counts and percentage changes)

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx</a>



Categories	Total pe	rsons marginally	housed	Total pop	oulation (usual re	sidence)	Number of pe	ersons marginally 10,000 people	/ housed per
Regions	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change	2016	2021	% Change
Blacktown	2,409	2,001	-16.9%	336,965	396,776	17.7%	71.5	50.4	-29.5%
Blue Mountains	107	38	-64.5%	76,902	78,121	1.6%	13.9	4.9	-65.0%
Camden	108	267	147.2%	78,220	119,325	52.6%	13.8	22.4	62.1%
Campbelltown	803	952	18.6%	157,007	176,519	12.4%	51.1	53.9	5.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	3,732	3,776	1.2%	346,300	371,006	7.1%	107.8	101.8	-5.6%
Cumberland	4,066	3,376	-17.0%	216,077	235,439	9.0%	188.2	143.4	-23.8%
Fairfield	3,185	3,030	-4.9%	198,816	208,475	4.9%	160.2	145.3	-9.3%
Hawkesbury	246	220	-10.6%	64,591	67,207	4.1%	38.1	32.7	-14.1%
Liverpool	1,433	1,519	6.0%	204,330	233,446	14.2%	70.1	65.1	-7.2%
Parramatta	1,120	952	-15.0%	226,153	256,729	13.5%	49.5	37.1	-25.1%
Penrith	647	776	19.9%	196,064	217,664	11.0%	33.0	35.7	8.0%
The Hills Shire	353	230	-34.8%	157,243	191,876	22.0%	22.4	12.0	-46.6%
Wollondilly	143	123	-14.0%	48,520	53,961	11.2%	29.5	22.8	-22.7%
Greater Western Sydney	18,352	17,260	-6.0%	2,307,188	2,606,544	13.0%	79.5	66.2	-16.8%
Lithgow	40	129	222.5%	21,090	20,842	-1.2%	19.0	61.9	226.3%
Wingecarribee	89	118	32.6%	47,878	52,709	10.1%	18.6	22.4	20.4%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	1,040	1,163	11.8%	358,647	383,834	7.0%	29.0	30.3	4.5%
DCJ South Western Sydney	9,493	9,785	3.1%	1,081,071	1,215,441	12.4%	87.8	80.5	-8.3%
DCJ Western Sydney	7,948	6,559	-17.5%	936,438	1,080,820	15.4%	84.9	60.7	-28.5%
Greater Sydney	29,178	24,848	-14.8%	4,823,993	5,231,147	8.4%	60.5	47.5	-21.5%
Rest of NSW	8,101	8,079	-0.3%	2,643,535	2,829,637	7.0%	30.6	28.6	-6.8%
NSW	37,275	32,929	-11.7%	7,480,230	8,072,163	7.9%	49.8	40.8	-18.1%

### 2.2 Persons marginally housed, totals and rates, 2016 and 2021 (counts and percentage changes)

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessnesscensus/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx



Categories	People living	in other crowde	d dwellings	People in c	other improvised	dwellings	People who are	e marginally hou: parks	sed in caravan
Regions	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change	2016	2021	%-Point Change
Blacktown	93.7%	99.5%	5.7%	3.4%	0.5%	-2.9%	2.8%	0.0%	-2.8%
Blue Mountains	87.9%	89.5%	1.6%	12.1%	10.5%	-1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Camden	71.3%	95.9%	24.6%	21.3%	0.0%	-21.3%	7.4%	4.1%	-3.3%
Campbelltown	97.9%	99.3%	1.4%	2.1%	0.7%	-1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Canterbury-Bankstown	99.8%	100.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Cumberland	99.0%	100.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	-1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fairfield	97.5%	99.0%	1.5%	1.6%	0.1%	-1.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%
Hawkesbury	61.8%	75.9%	14.1%	15.0%	9.1%	-5.9%	23.2%	15.0%	-8.2%
Liverpool	97.5%	99.5%	2.1%	2.0%	0.5%	-1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	-0.5%
Parramatta	99.6%	99.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Penrith	88.1%	97.2%	9.1%	7.9%	1.4%	-6.5%	4.0%	1.4%	-2.6%
The Hills Shire	88.4%	100.0%	11.6%	8.2%	0.0%	-8.2%	3.4%	0.0%	-3.4%
Wollondilly	54.5%	71.5%	17.0%	20.3%	7.3%	-13.0%	25.2%	21.1%	-4.0%
Greater Western Sydney	96.4%	98.9%	2.5%	2.2%	0.4%	-1.8%	1.4%	0.6%	-0.7%
Lithgow	32.5%	89.9%	57.4%	25.0%	0.0%	-25.0%	42.5%	10.1%	-32.4%
Wingecarribee	62.9%	74.6%	11.7%	20.2%	11.0%	-9.2%	16.9%	14.4%	-2.4%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	79.7%	92.1%	12.4%	10.7%	3.0%	-7.7%	9.6%	4.9%	-4.7%
DCJ South Western Sydney	97.2%	98.8%	1.6%	1.8%	0.4%	-1.4%	1.0%	0.8%	-0.2%
DCJ Western Sydney	97.0%	99.8%	2.8%	1.9%	0.2%	-1.8%	1.1%	0.0%	-1.0%
Greater Sydney	96.3%	98.1%	1.8%	1.8%	0.4%	-1.4%	1.8%	1.5%	-0.4%
Rest of NSW	54.4%	68.9%	14.6%	15.2%	6.7%	-8.4%	30.5%	24.3%	-6.1%
NSW	87.2%	91.0%	3.7%	4.7%	1.9%	-2.8%	8.0%	7.1%	-1.0%

## 2.3 Persons marginally housed, categories, 2016 and 2021 (percentages and percentage-point changes)

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Estimating Homelessness, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness, 2016 Census - Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence (MB), 2021 Census - counting persons, place of usual residence; ABS Website, Estimating Homelessness, State and territory by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021/20490do006\_2021.xlsx</a>

Note: Totals of percentages based on previous table, and some computations (for instance, %-point changes) may not correspond with the sum or difference of the separate figures due to rounding.



Sex	Fen	nale	Ма	ale	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	781	48.7%	820	51.1%	1,604
Blue Mountains	57	47.1%	60	49.6%	121
Camden	64	47.1%	74	54.4%	136
Campbelltown	407	50.1%	400	49.3%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,035	38.2%	1,671	61.8%	2,706
Cumberland	827	37.3%	1,387	62.6%	2,216
Fairfield	780	49.6%	787	50.1%	1,571
Hawkesbury	111	46.4%	130	54.4%	239
Liverpool	509	49.7%	518	50.5%	1,025
Parramatta	320	39.1%	506	61.8%	819
Penrith	380	48.0%	409	51.7%	791
The Hills Shire	111	53.1%	95	45.5%	209
Wollondilly	50	45.9%	64	58.7%	109
Greater Western Sydney	5,432	44.0%	6,921	56.0%	12,358
Lithgow	11	31.4%	18	51.4%	35
Wingecarribee	40	51.3%	37	47.4%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	559	47.1%	617	52.0%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	2,885	44.8%	3,551	55.2%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	2,039	42.1%	2,808	57.9%	4,848
Greater Sydney	10,216	40.6%	14,931	59.4%	25,142
Rest of NSW	4,411	44.8%	5,427	55.2%	9,839
NSW	14,629	41.8%	20,351	58.2%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness

Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed">https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed">https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-data/census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed</a>, 3) Totals in the Demographics section (Appendices 3.1 to 13.2) vary slightly from the totals in the 'Homelessness in Greater Western Sydney' section (Appendices 1.1 to 2.3) as they were sourced from two different ABS portals.



## 3.2 Sex, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Sex	Fem	nale	Ma	ale	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	977	48.7%	1,022	50.9%	2,007
Blue Mountains	15	36.6%	23	56.1%	41
Camden	142	52.8%	124	46.1%	269
Campbelltown	498	52.2%	451	47.3%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,668	44.2%	2,108	55.8%	3,776
Cumberland	1,406	41.6%	1,969	58.3%	3,376
Fairfield	1,560	51.4%	1,475	48.6%	3,035
Hawkesbury	102	47.2%	117	54.2%	216
Liverpool	765	50.3%	754	49.5%	1,522
Parramatta	359	37.7%	593	62.4%	951
Penrith	413	52.7%	364	46.5%	783
The Hills Shire	117	50.9%	117	50.9%	230
Wollondilly	60	48.4%	67	54.0%	124
Greater Western Sydney	8,082	46.8%	9,184	53.1%	17,284
Lithgow	63	49.6%	62	48.8%	127
Wingecarribee	55	49.1%	60	53.6%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	593	50.8%	566	48.5%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	4,748	48.5%	5,039	51.5%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	2,859	43.6%	3,701	56.4%	6,564
Greater Sydney	11,425	46.0%	13,433	54.1%	24,852
Rest of NSW	3,776	46.8%	4,295	53.2%	8,074
NSW	15,203	46.2%	17,721	53.8%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



4.1 Age, persons	experiencing	homelessness,	2021 (counts	and percentages)
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Age	0-24	0-24 years		years	45-64	years	65+ years		Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	830	51.7%	428	26.7%	283	17.6%	60	3.7%	1,604
Blue Mountains	50	41.3%	35	28.9%	26	21.5%	10	8.3%	121
Camden	48	35.3%	58	42.6%	22	16.2%	5	3.7%	136
Campbelltown	427	52.6%	213	26.2%	139	17.1%	26	3.2%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,068	39.5%	916	33.9%	577	21.3%	147	5.4%	2,706
Cumberland	820	37.0%	953	43.0%	391	17.6%	47	2.1%	2,216
Fairfield	667	42.5%	475	30.2%	337	21.5%	88	5.6%	1,571
Hawkesbury	118	49.4%	68	28.5%	37	15.5%	22	9.2%	239
Liverpool	468	45.7%	308	30.0%	185	18.0%	59	5.8%	1,025
Parramatta	276	33.7%	357	43.6%	136	16.6%	46	5.6%	819
Penrith	408	51.6%	227	28.7%	126	15.9%	29	3.7%	791
The Hills Shire	89	42.6%	66	31.6%	40	19.1%	18	8.6%	209
Wollondilly	45	41.3%	29	26.6%	21	19.3%	9	8.3%	109
Greater Western Sydney	5,314	43.0%	4,133	33.4%	2,320	18.8%	566	4.6%	12,358
Lithgow	8	22.9%	7	20.0%	11	31.4%	8	22.9%	35
Wingecarribee	30	38.5%	25	32.1%	25	32.1%	3	3.8%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	584	49.2%	337	28.4%	200	16.9%	69	5.8%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	2,753	42.8%	2,024	31.4%	1,306	20.3%	337	5.2%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	2,015	41.6%	1,804	37.2%	850	17.5%	171	3.5%	4,848
Greater Sydney	8,262	32.9%	9,697	38.6%	5,376	21.4%	1,806	7.2%	25,142
Rest of NSW	3,634	36.9%	3,238	32.9%	2,148	21.8%	808	8.2%	9,839
NSW	11,900	34.0%	12,941	37.0%	7,528	21.5%	2,613	7.5%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed



4.2 Age, persons experiencing marginally	housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)
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Age	0-24 years		25-44	years	45-64	years	65+ years		Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	1,056	52.6%	592	29.5%	279	13.9%	76	3.8%	2,007
Blue Mountains	21	51.2%	7	17.1%	10	24.4%	3	7.3%	41
Camden	143	53.2%	61	22.7%	43	16.0%	19	7.1%	269
Campbelltown	541	56.7%	239	25.1%	142	14.9%	27	2.8%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,809	47.9%	1,220	32.3%	601	15.9%	144	3.8%	3,776
Cumberland	1,481	43.9%	1,327	39.3%	483	14.3%	92	2.7%	3,376
Fairfield	1,380	45.5%	843	27.8%	614	20.2%	196	6.5%	3,035
Hawkesbury	98	45.4%	45	20.8%	56	25.9%	17	7.9%	216
Liverpool	812	53.4%	382	25.1%	252	16.6%	67	4.4%	1,522
Parramatta	443	46.6%	395	41.5%	91	9.6%	31	3.3%	951
Penrith	421	53.8%	180	23.0%	144	18.4%	38	4.9%	783
The Hills Shire	115	50.0%	63	27.4%	40	17.4%	12	5.2%	230
Wollondilly	44	35.5%	25	20.2%	29	23.4%	19	15.3%	124
Greater Western Sydney	8,364	48.4%	5,379	31.1%	2,784	16.1%	741	4.3%	17,284
Lithgow	70	55.1%	23	18.1%	29	22.8%	10	7.9%	127
Wingecarribee	42	37.5%	34	30.4%	24	21.4%	15	13.4%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	610	52.3%	255	21.9%	239	20.5%	68	5.8%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	4,771	48.7%	2,804	28.6%	1,705	17.4%	487	5.0%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	3,095	47.2%	2,377	36.2%	893	13.6%	211	3.2%	6,564
Greater Sydney	11,348	45.7%	8,657	34.8%	3,708	14.9%	1,131	4.6%	24,852
Rest of NSW	3,189	39.5%	1,941	24.0%	1,767	21.9%	1,171	14.5%	8,074
NSW	14,541	44.2%	10,600	32.2%	5,474	16.6%	2,305	7.0%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed



Indigenous status	Aborig	inal	Torres S Island		Both Abo and Torre Island	s Strait	Total Abo and/or T Strait Isla	orres	Non-Indig	jenous	Not sta	ated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	79	4.9%	3	0.2%	6	0.4%	88	5.5%	1,372	85.5%	151	9.4%	1,604
Blue Mountains	9	7.4%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	9	7.4%	99	81.8%	10	8.3%	121
Camden	5	3.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	5	3.7%	116	85.3%	14	10.3%	136
Campbelltown	44	5.4%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	44	5.4%	668	82.3%	99	12.2%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	16	0.6%	4	0.1%	-	0.0%	20	0.7%	2,481	91.7%	199	7.4%	2,706
Cumberland	7	0.3%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	7	0.3%	2,063	93.1%	144	6.5%	2,216
Fairfield	6	0.4%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	0.4%	1,485	94.5%	79	5.0%	1,571
Hawkesbury	33	13.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	33	13.8%	188	78.7%	17	7.1%	239
Liverpool	46	4.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	46	4.5%	850	82.9%	126	12.3%	1,025
Parramatta	26	3.2%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	26	3.2%	722	88.2%	72	8.8%	819
Penrith	71	9.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	71	9.0%	584	73.8%	133	16.8%	791
The Hills Shire	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	192	91.9%	13	6.2%	209
Wollondilly	21	19.3%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	21	19.3%	84	77.1%	-	0.0%	109
Greater Western Sydney	363	2.9%	7	0.1%	6	0.0%	376	3.0%	10,904	88.2%	1,057	8.6%	12,358
Lithgow	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	15	42.9%	10	28.6%	35
Wingecarribee	10	12.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	10	12.8%	58	74.4%	10	12.8%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	113	9.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	113	9.5%	886	74.7%	170	14.3%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	148	2.3%	4	0.1%	-	0.0%	152	2.4%	5,742	89.2%	527	8.2%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	112	2.3%	3	0.1%	6	0.1%	121	2.5%	4,349	89.7%	380	7.8%	4,848
Greater Sydney	751	3.0%	30	0.1%	35	0.1%	816	3.2%	21,009	83.6%	3,318	13.2%	25,142
Rest of NSW	1,606	16.3%	26	0.3%	42	0.4%	1,674	17. <b>0</b> %	6,773	68.8%	1,391	14.1%	9,839
NSW	2,357	6.7%	53	0.2%	78	0.2%	2,488	7.1%	27,782	79.4%	4,710	13.5%	34,982

## 5.1 Indigenous status, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



Indigenous status	Aborig	inal	Torres S Island		Both Abo and Torre Island	s Strait	Total Abo and/or T Strait Isla	orres	Non-Indig	enous	Not sta	ted	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	57	2.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	57	2.8%	1,924	95.9%	22	1.1%	2,007
Blue Mountains	8	19.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	8	19.5%	32	78.0%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	11	4.1%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	11	4.1%	252	93.7%	-	0.0%	269
Campbelltown	40	4.2%	3	0.3%	-	0.0%	43	4.5%	907	95.1%	-	0.0%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	22	0.6%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	22	0.6%	3,719	98.5%	33	0.9%	3,776
Cumberland	19	0.6%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	19	0.6%	3,324	98.5%	34	1.0%	3,376
Fairfield	23	0.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	23	0.8%	3,001	98.9%	7	0.2%	3,035
Hawkesbury	18	8.3%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	18	8.3%	198	91.7%	-	0.0%	216
Liverpool	8	0.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	8	0.5%	1,497	98.4%	10	0.7%	1,522
Parramatta	27	2.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	27	2.8%	918	96.5%	4	0.4%	951
Penrith	53	6.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	53	6.8%	724	92.5%	3	0.4%	783
The Hills Shire	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	5	2.2%	5	2.2%	225	97.8%	-	0.0%	230
Wollondilly	13	10.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	13	10.5%	103	83.1%	-	0.0%	124
Greater Western Sydney	299	1.7%	3	0.0%	5	0.0%	307	1.8%	16,824	97.3%	113	0.7%	17,284
Lithgow	25	19.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	25	19.7%	98	77.2%	-	0.0%	127
Wingecarribee	3	2.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	3	2.7%	107	95.5%	-	0.0%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	104	8.9%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	104	8.9%	1,052	90.1%	3	0.3%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	120	1.2%	3	0.0%	-	0.0%	123	1.3%	9,586	97.9%	50	0.5%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	103	1.6%	-	0.0%	5	0.1%	108	1.6%	6,391	97.4%	60	0.9%	6,564
Greater Sydney	444	1.8%	7	0.0%	17	0.1%	468	1.9%	24,189	97.3%	192	0.8%	24,852
Rest of NSW	1,337	16.6%	18	0.2%	39	0.5%	1,394	17.3%	6,467	80.1%	209	2.6%	8,074
NSW	1,792	5.4%	21	0.1%	54	0.2%	1,867	5.7%	30,660	93.1%	405	1.2%	32,920

## 5.2 Indigenous status, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 6.1 Country of birth, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Country of birth	Aust	ralia	Born els (including Territor Supplement	External ies and	Not s	Total	
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	732	45.6%	684	42.6%	186	11.6%	1,604
Blue Mountains	81	66.9%	28	23.1%	13	10.7%	121
Camden	85	62.5%	26	19.1%	26	19.1%	136
Campbelltown	390	48.0%	267	32.9%	147	18.1%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	911	33.7%	1,551	57.3%	246	9.1%	2,706
Cumberland	482	21.8%	1,517	68.5%	209	9.4%	2,216
Fairfield	575	36.6%	892	56.8%	107	6.8%	1,571
Hawkesbury	190	79.5%	34	14.2%	21	8.8%	239
Liverpool	423	41.3%	411	40.1%	190	18.5%	1,025
Parramatta	226	27.6%	457	55.8%	138	16.8%	819
Penrith	424	53.6%	176	22.3%	185	23.4%	791
The Hills Shire	99	47.4%	82	39.2%	25	12.0%	209
Wollondilly	100	91.7%	6	5.5%	3	2.8%	109
Greater Western Sydney	4,718	38.2%	6,131	49.6%	1,496	12.1%	12,358
Lithgow	14	40.0%	-	0.0%	10	28.6%	35
Wingecarribee	56	71.8%	11	14.1%	14	17.9%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	709	59.8%	238	20.1%	229	19.3%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	2,540	39.5%	3,164	49.2%	733	11.4%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	1,539	31.7%	2,740	56.5%	558	11.5%	4,848
Greater Sydney	8,511	33.9%	12,157	48.4%	4,473	17.8%	25,142
Rest of NSW	6,106	62.1%	1,553	15.8%	2,184	22.2%	9,839
NSW	14,616	41.8%	13,709	39.2%	6,652	19.0%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 6.2 Country of birth, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Country of birth	Aust	ralia	Born els (including Territor Supplement	External ies and	Not s	Total	
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	886	44.1%	1,108	55.2%	14	0.7%	2,007
Blue Mountains	35	85.4%	3	7.3%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	144	53.5%	113	42.0%	13	4.8%	269
Campbelltown	554	58.1%	391	41.0%	8	0.8%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,648	43.6%	2,064	54.7%	65	1.7%	3,776
Cumberland	950	28.1%	2,369	70.2%	58	1.7%	3,376
Fairfield	1,189	39.2%	1,821	60.0%	23	0.8%	3,035
Hawkesbury	178	82.4%	32	14.8%	6	2.8%	216
Liverpool	726	47.7%	779	51.2%	9	0.6%	1,522
Parramatta	268	28.2%	681	71.6%	4	0.4%	951
Penrith	495	63.2%	269	34.4%	17	2.2%	783
The Hills Shire	112	48.7%	119	51.7%	-	0.0%	230
Wollondilly	99	79.8%	18	14.5%	-	0.0%	124
Greater Western Sydney	7,284	42.1%	9,767	56.5%	217	1.3%	17,284
Lithgow	123	96.9%	3	2.4%	-	0.0%	127
Wingecarribee	87	77.7%	27	24.1%	3	2.7%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	831	71.2%	307	26.3%	23	2.0%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	4,447	45.4%	5,213	53.2%	121	1.2%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	2,216	33.8%	4,277	65.2%	76	1.2%	6,564
Greater Sydney	9,472	38.1%	15,030	60.5%	348	1.4%	24,852
Rest of NSW	6,068	75.2%	1,711	21.2%	293	3.6%	8,074
NSW	15,540	47.2%	16,739	50.8%	644	2.0%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 7.1 Language used at home, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Language used at home	Languages English (i Supplemen	including	Eng	lish	Inadequatel	y described	Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	718	44.8%	660	41.1%	3	0.2%	221	13.8%	1,604
Blue Mountains	20	16.5%	87	71.9%	-	0.0%	9	7.4%	121
Camden	41	30.1%	74	54.4%	-	0.0%	22	16.2%	136
Campbelltown	301	37.1%	350	43.1%	-	0.0%	150	18.5%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,939	71.7%	449	16.6%	-	0.0%	313	11.6%	2,706
Cumberland	1,663	75.0%	311	14.0%	-	0.0%	244	11.0%	2,216
Fairfield	1,193	75.9%	247	15.7%	-	0.0%	128	8.1%	1,571
Hawkesbury	33	13.8%	185	77.4%	-	0.0%	24	10.0%	239
Liverpool	537	52.4%	276	26.9%	-	0.0%	214	20.9%	1,025
Parramatta	444	54.2%	226	27.6%	-	0.0%	153	18.7%	819
Penrith	176	22.3%	419	53.0%	-	0.0%	197	24.9%	791
The Hills Shire	79	37.8%	112	53.6%	-	0.0%	19	9.1%	209
Wollondilly	3	2.8%	101	92.7%	-	0.0%	3	2.8%	109
Greater Western Sydney	7,147	57.8%	3,497	28.3%	3	0.0%	1,697	13.7%	12,358
Lithgow	-	0.0%	17	48.6%	-	0.0%	12	34.3%	35
Wingecarribee	9	11.5%	54	69.2%	-	0.0%	11	14.1%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	229	19.3%	708	59.7%	-	0.0%	242	20.4%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	4,023	62.5%	1,551	24.1%	-	0.0%	841	13.1%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	2,904	59.9%	1,309	27.0%	3	0.1%	637	13.1%	4,848
Greater Sydney	12,037	47.9%	8,276	32.9%	27	0.1%	4,806	19.1%	25,142
Rest of NSW	1,120	11.4%	6,304	64.1%	43	0.4%	2,374	24.1%	9,839
NSW	13,154	37.6%	14,580	41.7%	67	0.2%	7,183	20.5%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed



## 7.2 Language used at home, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Language used at home	Languages English (i Supplemen	including	Eng	lish	Inadequatel	y described	Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	1,172	58.4%	762	38.0%	4	0.2%	67	3.3%	2,007
Blue Mountains	4	9.8%	40	97.6%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	112	41.6%	145	53.9%	-	0.0%	11	4.1%	269
Campbelltown	486	50.9%	434	45.5%	-	0.0%	31	3.2%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	2,961	78.4%	710	18.8%	-	0.0%	109	2.9%	3,776
Cumberland	2,824	83.6%	446	13.2%	5	0.1%	112	3.3%	3,376
Fairfield	2,381	78.5%	581	19.1%	4	0.1%	67	2.2%	3,035
Hawkesbury	17	7.9%	198	91.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	216
Liverpool	1,083	71.2%	399	26.2%	-	0.0%	35	2.3%	1,522
Parramatta	742	78.0%	192	20.2%	-	0.0%	20	2.1%	951
Penrith	287	36.7%	455	58.1%	-	0.0%	36	4.6%	783
The Hills Shire	138	60.0%	93	40.4%	-	0.0%	3	1.3%	230
Wollondilly	14	11.3%	108	87.1%	-	0.0%	4	3.2%	124
Greater Western Sydney	12,221	70.7%	4,563	26.4%	13	0.1%	495	2.9%	17,284
Lithgow	6	4.7%	116	91.3%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	127
Wingecarribee	22	19.6%	88	78.6%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	314	26.9%	809	69.3%	-	0.0%	36	3.1%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	7,059	72.1%	2,465	25.2%	4	0.0%	257	2.6%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	4,876	74.3%	1,493	22.7%	9	0.1%	202	3.1%	6,564
Greater Sydney	17,714	71.3%	6,385	25.7%	23	0.1%	732	2.9%	24,852
Rest of NSW	1,310	16.2%	6,336	78.5%	107	1.3%	319	4.0%	8,074
NSW	19,019	57.8%	12,715	38.6%	133	0.4%	1,047	3.2%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed



#### 8.1 Citizenship status, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Citizenship status	Australia	n Citizen	Not an Austra	alian Citizen	Not st	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	990	61.7%	429	26.7%	179	11.2%	1,604
Blue Mountains	86	71.1%	19	15.7%	13	10.7%	121
Camden	100	73.5%	20	14.7%	26	19.1%	136
Campbelltown	464	57.1%	210	25.9%	137	16.9%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,517	56.1%	954	35.3%	233	8.6%	2,706
Cumberland	791	35.7%	1,237	55.8%	189	8.5%	2,216
Fairfield	1,081	68.8%	386	24.6%	98	6.2%	1,571
Hawkesbury	203	84.9%	16	6.7%	21	8.8%	239
Liverpool	654	63.8%	183	17.9%	188	18.3%	1,025
Parramatta	349	42.6%	336	41.0%	133	16.2%	819
Penrith	461	58.3%	146	18.5%	187	23.6%	791
The Hills Shire	140	67.0%	46	22.0%	11	5.3%	209
Wollondilly	94	86.2%	5	4.6%	5	4.6%	109
Greater Western Sydney	6,930	56.1%	3,987	32.3%	1,420	11.5%	12,358
Lithgow	17	48.6%	-	0.0%	12	34.3%	35
Wingecarribee	56	71.8%	11	14.1%	18	23.1%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	767	64.7%	181	15.3%	233	19.6%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	3,966	61.6%	1,769	27.5%	705	11.0%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	2,270	46.8%	2,048	42.2%	512	10.6%	4,848
Greater Sydney	12,273	48.8%	8,515	33.9%	4,351	17.3%	25,142
Rest of NSW	6,421	65.3%	1,080	11.0%	2,338	23.8%	9,839
NSW	18,700	53.5%	9,598	27.4%	6,682	19.1%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 8.2 Citizenship status, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Citizenship status	Australia	n Citizen	Not an Austr	alian Citizen	Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	1,234	61.5%	756	37.7%	18	0.9%	2,007
Blue Mountains	45	109.8%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	198	73.6%	62	23.0%	6	2.2%	269
Campbelltown	707	74.1%	243	25.5%	5	0.5%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	2,450	64.9%	1,266	33.5%	62	1.6%	3,776
Cumberland	1,579	46.8%	1,746	51.7%	51	1.5%	3,376
Fairfield	2,178	71.8%	841	27.7%	15	0.5%	3,035
Hawkesbury	206	95.4%	9	4.2%	-	0.0%	216
Liverpool	1,130	74.2%	388	25.5%	3	0.2%	1,522
Parramatta	409	43.0%	535	56.3%	9	0.9%	951
Penrith	624	79.7%	144	18.4%	13	1.7%	783
The Hills Shire	167	72.6%	64	27.8%	-	0.0%	230
Wollondilly	110	88.7%	5	4.0%	4	3.2%	124
Greater Western Sydney	11,037	63.9%	6,059	35.1%	186	1.1%	17,284
Lithgow	124	97.6%	6	4.7%	-	0.0%	127
Wingecarribee	87	77.7%	29	25.9%	-	0.0%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	999	85.6%	159	13.6%	13	1.1%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	6,860	70.1%	2,834	28.9%	95	1.0%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	3,389	51.6%	3,101	47.2%	78	1.2%	6,564
Greater Sydney	14,078	56.6%	10,468	42.1%	307	1.2%	24,852
Rest of NSW	6,567	81.3%	1,268	15.7%	231	2.9%	8,074
NSW	20,645	62.7%	11,735	35.6%	540	1.6%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 9.1 Disability, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Need for assistance	Has need for with core		Does not ha assistance activ	with core	Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	75	4.7%	1,317	82.1%	208	13.0%	1,604
Blue Mountains	-	0.0%	104	86.0%	14	11.6%	121
Camden	9	6.6%	106	77.9%	21	15.4%	136
Campbelltown	46	5.7%	597	73.5%	162	20.0%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	116	4.3%	2,263	83.6%	328	12.1%	2,706
Cumberland	64	2.9%	1,902	85.8%	253	11.4%	2,216
Fairfield	78	5.0%	1,359	86.5%	127	127 8.1%	
Hawkesbury	16	6.7%	200	83.7%	21	8.8%	239
Liverpool	77	7.5%	742	72.4%	206	20.1%	1,025
Parramatta	33	4.0%	638	77.9%	148	18.1%	819
Penrith	36	4.6%	569	71.9%	187	23.6%	791
The Hills Shire	7	3.3%	181	86.6%	19	9.1%	209
Wollondilly	4	3.7%	98	89.9%	9	8.3%	109
Greater Western Sydney	561	4.5%	10,076	81.5%	1,703	13.8%	12,358
Lithgow	-	0.0%	16	45.7%	12	34.3%	35
Wingecarribee	5	6.4%	62	79.5%	8	10.3%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	52	4.4%	889	75.0%	234	19.7%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	335	5.2%	5,227	81.2%	861	13.4%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	179	3.7%	4,038	83.3%	628	13.0%	4,848
Greater Sydney	932	3.7%	19,407	77.2%	4,803	19.1%	25,142
Rest of NSW	523	5.3%	6,865	69.8%	2,448	24.9%	9,839
NSW	1,456	4.2%	26,276	75.1%	7,260	20.8%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness Note: 1) Percentages may not sum to 100%. 2) No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors. Sums of category values may therefore be unequal to overall totals. Read more about how the ABS processes Census data here: https://www.abs.gov.au/census/guide-census-data/census-methodology/2021/how-data-processed



# 9.2 Disability, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Need for assistance	Has need for with core		Does not ha assistance activ	with core	Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	74	3.7%	1,888	94.1%	46	2.3%	2,007
Blue Mountains	3	7.3%	37	90.2%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	12	4.5%	241	89.6%	8	3.0%	269
Campbelltown	55	5.8%	880	92.2%	19	2.0%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	176	4.7%	3,477	92.1%	123	3.3%	3,776
Cumberland	125	3.7%	3,150	93.3%	102	3.0%	3,376
Fairfield	182 6.0% 2,799 92.2%		55	1.8%	3,035		
Hawkesbury	10	4.6%	201	93.1%	9	4.2%	216
Liverpool	114	7.5%	1,395	91.7%	13	0.9%	1,522
Parramatta	32	3.4%	901	94.7%	22	2.3%	951
Penrith	52	6.6%	705	90.0%	21	2.7%	783
The Hills Shire	5	2.2%	228	99.1%	3	1.3%	230
Wollondilly	17	13.7%	100	80.6%	4	3.2%	124
Greater Western Sydney	857	5.0%	16,002	92.6%	425	2.5%	17,284
Lithgow	17	13.4%	115	90.6%	-	0.0%	127
Wingecarribee	3	2.7%	105	93.8%	7	6.3%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	82	7.0%	1,058	90.7%	30	2.6%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	559	5.7%	8,997	91.9%	229	2.3%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	236	3.6%	6,167	94.0%	173	2.6%	6,564
Greater Sydney	1,062	4.3%	23,167	93.2%	620	2.5%	24,852
Rest of NSW	635	7.9%	7,070	87.6%	367	4.5%	8,074
NSW	1,699	5.2%	30,241	91.9%	987	3.0%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 10.1 Long-term health conditions, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Count of selected long-term health conditions	One or more	conditions	None of th condi		Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	269	16.8%	1,094	68.2%	239	14.9%	1,604
Blue Mountains	40	33.1%	60	49.6%	20	16.5%	121
Camden	23	16.9%	92	67.6%	24	17.6%	136
Campbelltown	162	20.0%	468	57.6%	176	21.7%	812
Canterbury-Bankstown	368	13.6%	1,971	72.8%	368	13.6%	2,706
Cumberland	180	8.1%	1,768	79.8%	275	12.4%	2,216
Fairfield	201	12.8%	1,187	75.6%	182	11.6%	1,571
Hawkesbury	74	31.0%	144	60.3%	24	10.0%	239
Liverpool	163	15.9%	626	61.1%	237	23.1%	1,025
Parramatta	117	14.3%	551	67.3%	152	18.6%	819
Penrith	174	22.0%	422	53.4%	197	24.9%	791
The Hills Shire	28	13.4%	157	75.1%	22	10.5%	209
Wollondilly	32	29.4%	59	54.1%	14	12.8%	109
Greater Western Sydney	1,831	14.8%	8,599	69.6%	1,930	15.6%	12,358
Lithgow	7	20.0%	9	25.7%	12	34.3%	35
Wingecarribee	15	19.2%	50	64.1%	16	20.5%	78
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	295	24.9%	635	53.5%	253	21.3%	1,186
DCJ South Western Sydney	964	15.0%	4,453	69.2%	1,017	15.8%	6,437
DCJ Western Sydney	594	12.3%	3,570	73.6%	688	14.2%	4,848
Greater Sydney	4,150	16.5%	15,780	62.8%	5,209	20.7%	25,142
Rest of NSW	2,580	26.2%	4,618	46.9%	2,646	26.9%	9,839
NSW	6,732	19.2%	20,400	58.3%	7,852	22.4%	34,982

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 10.2 Long-term health conditions, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Count of selected long-term health conditions	One or more	conditions	None of th condi		Not s	tated	Total
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	313	15.6%	1,582	78.8%	112	5.6%	2,007
Blue Mountains	9	22.0%	28	68.3%	-	0.0%	41
Camden	37	13.8%	212	78.8%	16	5.9%	269
Campbelltown	171	17.9%	733	76.8%	45	4.7%	954
Canterbury-Bankstown	453	12.0%	3,096	82.0%	224	5.9%	3,776
Cumberland	338	10.0%	2,918	86.4%	124	3.7%	3,376
Fairfield	421	13.9%	2,456	80.9%	158	5.2%	3,035
Hawkesbury	59	27.3%	142	65.7%	17	7.9%	216
Liverpool	235	15.4%	1,219	80.1%	68	4.5%	1,522
Parramatta	87	9.1%	839	88.2%	33	3.5%	951
Penrith	161	20.6%	579	73.9%	40	5.1%	783
The Hills Shire	22	9.6%	211	91.7%	4	1.7%	230
Wollondilly	41	33.1%	76	61.3%	5	4.0%	124
Greater Western Sydney	2,347	13.6%	14,091	81.5%	846	4.9%	17,284
Lithgow	25	19.7%	91	71.7%	6	4.7%	127
Wingecarribee	27	24.1%	83	74.1%	8	7.1%	112
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	254	21.8%	840	72.0%	63	5.4%	1,167
DCJ South Western Sydney	1,385	14.1%	7,875	80.4%	524	5.4%	9,792
DCJ Western Sydney	760	11.6%	5,550	84.6%	273	4.2%	6,564
Greater Sydney	3,176	12.8%	20,576	82.8%	1,098	4.4%	24,852
Rest of NSW	2,489	30.8%	4,932	61.1%	656	8.1%	8,074
NSW	5,668	17.2%	25,507	77.5%	1,748	5.3%	32,920

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 11.1 Labour force status, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Labour force status	Unemp	bloyed	Empl	oyed	Not in the la	abour force	Not s	tated	Total applicable population
Region	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	72	6.1%	483	41.1%	472	40.2%	143	12.2%	1,175
Blue Mountains	6	6.4%	36	38.3%	40	42.6%	8	8.5%	94
Camden	13	12.0%	33	30.6%	46	42.6%	18	16.7%	108
Campbelltown	38	6.4%	170	28.6%	273	45.9%	116	19.5%	595
Canterbury-Bankstown	177	8.1%	646	29.5%	1,080	49.4%	281	12.8%	2,188
Cumberland	116	6.2%	564	30.1%	955	50.9%	236	12.6%	1,876
Fairfield	83	6.9%	371	30.7%	637	52.8%	116	9.6%	1,207
Hawkesbury	14	8.4%	49	29.3%	96	57.5%	20	12.0%	167
Liverpool	42	5.7%	194	26.1%	376	50.6%	140	18.8%	743
Parramatta	37	5.1%	288	39.8%	272	37.6%	132	18.3%	723
Penrith	41	7.2%	157	27.6%	222	39.0%	149	26.2%	569
The Hills Shire	7	4.3%	74	45.1%	60	36.6%	17	10.4%	164
Wollondilly	11	12.8%	28	32.6%	46	53.5%	8	9.3%	86
Greater Western Sydney	657	6.8%	3,093	31.9%	4,575	47.2%	1,384	14.3%	9,695
Lithgow	-	0.0%	5	16.1%	6	19.4%	10	32.3%	31
Wingecarribee	-	0.0%	27	41.5%	25	38.5%	9	13.8%	65
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	61	7.1%	247	28.7%	364	42.3%	187	21.7%	861
DCJ South Western Sydney	364	7.3%	1,469	29.4%	2,483	49.7%	688	13.8%	4,992
DCJ Western Sydney	232	5.9%	1,409	35.8%	1,759	44.7%	528	13.4%	3,938
Greater Sydney	1,511	7.0%	7,483	34.5%	8,301	38.3%	4,372	20.2%	21,663
Rest of NSW	644	8.0%	2,340	29.1%	2,957	36.8%	2,089	26.0%	8,037
NSW	2,157	7.3%	9,821	33.1%	11,256	37.9%	6,463	21.8%	29,700

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 11.2 Labour force status, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Labour force status	Unemp	loyed	Empl	oyed	Not in the la	abour force	Not s	Total applicable population	
Region	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	74	5.1%	699	48.2%	642	44.2%	32	2.2%	1,451
Blue Mountains	-	0.0%	15	55.6%	16	59.3%	-	0.0%	27
Camden	13	6.7%	87	44.8%	81	41.8%	15	7.7%	194
Campbelltown	42	6.5%	275	42.2%	297	45.6%	27	4.1%	651
Canterbury-Bankstown	183	6.4%	1,009	35.0%	1,579	54.8%	106	3.7%	2,879
Cumberland	184			41.8%	1,332	48.3%	92	3.3%	2,756
Fairfield	137	6.0%	767	33.7%	1,340	59.0%	37	1.6%	2,273
Hawkesbury	5	3.1%	72	44.7%	77	47.8%	9	5.6%	161
Liverpool	70	6.4%	351	32.2%	660	60.6%	4	0.4%	1,089
Parramatta	62	8.0%	433	56.1%	270	35.0%	17	2.2%	772
Penrith	37	6.5%	269	47.0%	250	43.7%	23	4.0%	572
The Hills Shire	11	6.2%	102	57.3%	67	37.6%	-	0.0%	178
Wollondilly	9	9.2%	33	33.7%	48	49.0%	5	5.1%	98
Greater Western Sydney	827	6.3%	5,264	40.2%	6,659	50.8%	367	2.8%	13,101
Lithgow	10	12.0%	30	36.1%	47	56.6%	-	0.0%	83
Wingecarribee	5	5.7%	57	64.8%	26	29.5%	7	8.0%	88
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	52	6.2%	386	45.8%	390	46.3%	32	3.8%	843
DCJ South Western Sydney	459	6.3%	2,579	35.5%	4,031	55.4%	201	2.8%	7,272
DCJ Western Sydney	331	6.4%	2,386	46.3%	2,311	44.8%	141	2.7%	5,157
Greater Sydney	1,253	6.4%	8,678	44.2%	9,097	46.4%	587	3.0%	19,613
Rest of NSW	490	7.8%	2,378	37.7%	3,071	48.7%	358	5.7%	6,307
NSW	1,752	6.8%	11,061	42.7%	12,166	46.9%	939	3.6%	25,917

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 12.1 Weekly personal income, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Weekly personal income	Nil and r inco		\$1-\$ (\$1-\$2		\$500- (\$26,000-		\$1,000- (\$52,000-		\$1,500 (\$78,000-		\$2,000 c (\$104,000		Not st	ated	Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	213	18.1%	282	24.0%	291	24.8%	165	14.0%	50	4.3%	27	2.3%	156	13.3%	1,175
Blue Mountains	8	8.5%	34	36.2%	20	21.3%	12	12.8%	-	0.0%	4	4.3%	5	5.3%	94
Camden	29	26.9%	21	19.4%	16	14.8%	6	5.6%	7	6.5%	5	4.6%	24	22.2%	108
Campbelltown	107	18.0%	150	25.2%	122	20.5%	53	8.9%	27	4.5%	16	2.7%	121	20.3%	595
Canterbury-Bankstown	397	18.1%	544	24.9%	597	27.3%	224	10.2%	68	3.1%	23	1.1%	327	14.9%	2,188
Cumberland	289	15.4%	454	24.2%	625	33.3%	195	10.4%	48	2.6%	24	1.3%	239	12.7%	1,876
Fairfield	274	22.7%	350	29.0%	259	21.5%	113	9.4%	51	4.2%	22	1.8%	142	11.8%	1,207
Hawkesbury	16	9.6%	75	44.9%	38	22.8%	13	7.8%	4	2.4%	10	6.0%	17	10.2%	167
Liverpool	125	16.8%	230	31.0%	162	21.8%	51	6.9%	18	2.4%	7	0.9%	154	20.7%	743
Parramatta	71	9.8%	159	22.0%	225	31.1%	82	11.3%	33	4.6%	12	1.7%	137	18.9%	723
Penrith	64	11.2%	153	26.9%	109	19.2%	53	9.3%	16	2.8%	11	1.9%	171	30.1%	569
The Hills Shire	24	14.6%	35	21.3%	38	23.2%	35	21.3%	6	3.7%	3	1.8%	24	14.6%	164
Wollondilly	12	14.0%	37	43.0%	26	30.2%	3	3.5%	-	0.0%	5	5.8%	6	7.0%	86
Greater Western Sydney	1,629	16.8%	2,524	26.0%	2,528	26.1%	1,005	10.4%	328	3.4%	169	1.7%	1,523	15.7%	9,695
Lithgow	-	0.0%	6	19.4%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	15	48.4%	31
Wingecarribee	9	13.8%	17	26.2%	14	21.5%	5	7.7%	8	12.3%	-	0.0%	8	12.3%	65
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	88	10.2%	268	31.1%	167	19.4%	78	9.1%	20	2.3%	25	2.9%	208	24.2%	861
DCJ South Western Sydney	953	19.1%	1,349	27.0%	1,196	24.0%	455	9.1%	179	3.6%	78	1.6%	782	15.7%	4,992
DCJ Western Sydney	597	15.2%	930	23.6%	1,179	29.9%	477	12.1%	137	3.5%	66	1.7%	556	14.1%	3,938
Greater Sydney	2,518	11.6%	5,113	23.6%	5,772	26.6%	2,283	10.5%	798	3.7%	516	2.4%	4,669	21.6%	21,663
Rest of NSW	652	8.1%	2,677	33.3%	1,747	21.7%	629	7.8%	201	2.5%	150	1.9%	1,985	24.7%	8,037
NSW	3,176	10.7%	7,783	26.2%	7,518	25.3%	2,912	9.8%	996	3.4%	667	2.2%	6,649	22.4%	29,700

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 12.2 Weekly personal income, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Weekly personal income	Nil and n inco		\$1-\$ (\$1-\$2		\$500- (\$26,000-		\$1,000- (\$52,000-		\$1,500 (\$78,000-3		\$2,000 d (\$104,000		Not s	tated	Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	277	19.1%	319	22.0%	435	30.0%	240	16.5%	67	4.6%	33	2.3%	75	5.2%	1,451
Blue Mountains	4	14.8%	3	11.1%	8	29.6%	5	18.5%	5	18.5%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	27
Camden	45	23.2%	33	17.0%	62	32.0%	27	13.9%	10	5.2%	-	0.0%	13	6.7%	194
Campbelltown	140	21.5%	145	22.3%	200	30.7%	85	13.1%	31	4.8%	14	2.2%	46	7.1%	651
Canterbury-Bankstown	608	21.1%	794	27.6%	795	27.6%	377	13.1%	105	3.6%	27	0.9%	165	5.7%	2,879
Cumberland	442	16.0%	713	25.9%	943	34.2%	360	13.1%	123	4.5%	58	2.1%	120	4.4%	2,756
Fairfield	454	20.0%	781	34.4%	611	26.9%	250	11.0%	75	3.3%	32	1.4%	61	2.7%	2,273
Hawkesbury	25	15.5%	46	28.6%	41	25.5%	21	13.0%	4	2.5%	12	7.5%	13	8.1%	161
Liverpool	182	16.7%	388	35.6%	327	30.0%	116	10.7%	29	2.7%	13	1.2%	30	2.8%	1,089
Parramatta	96	12.4%	181	23.4%	312	40.4%	116	15.0%	40	5.2%	16	2.1%	22	2.8%	772
Penrith	106	18.5%	148	25.9%	149	26.0%	61	10.7%	43	7.5%	23	4.0%	40	7.0%	572
The Hills Shire	43	24.2%	41	23.0%	39	21.9%	27	15.2%	11	6.2%	17	9.6%	-	0.0%	178
Wollondilly	15	15.3%	32	32.7%	34	34.7%	9	9.2%	3	3.1%	4	4.1%	5	5.1%	98
Greater Western Sydney	2,437	18.6%	3,624	27.7%	3,956	30.2%	1,694	12.9%	546	4.2%	249	1.9%	590	4.5%	13,101
Lithgow	9	10.8%	35	42.2%	25	30.1%	6	7.2%	-	0.0%	5	6.0%	-	0.0%	83
Wingecarribee	4	4.5%	17	19.3%	38	43.2%	24	27.3%	6	6.8%	-	0.0%	4	4.5%	88
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	144	17.1%	232	27.5%	223	26.5%	93	11.0%	52	6.2%	40	4.7%	53	6.3%	843
DCJ South Western Sydney	1,448	19.9%	2,190	30.1%	2,067	28.4%	888	12.2%	259	3.6%	90	1.2%	324	4.5%	7,272
DCJ Western Sydney	858	16.6%	1,254	24.3%	1,729	33.5%	743	14.4%	241	4.7%	124	2.4%	217	4.2%	5,157
Greater Sydney	3,212	16.4%	5,066	25.8%	6,639	33.8%	2,603	13.3%	786	4.0%	392	2.0%	918	4.7%	19,613
Rest of NSW	626	9.9%	2,423	38.4%	1,879	29.8%	578	9.2%	202	3.2%	138	2.2%	455	7.2%	6,307
NSW	3,841	14.8%	7,491	28.9%	8,526	32.9%	3,179	12.3%	990	3.8%	533	2.1%	1,372	5.3%	25,917

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## 13.1 Educational attainment, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Educational attainment	Postgra Degree		Graduate and Gra Certifica	aduate	Bachelor Lev		Bache higi		Advanced and Diplo		Certificat Lev		Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	25	2.1%	7	0.6%	63	5.4%	95	8.1%	82	7.0%	111	9.4%	1,175
Blue Mountains	4	4.3%	-	0.0%	17	18.1%	21	22.3%	9	9.6%	9	9.6%	94
Camden	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	5.6%	6	5.6%	5	4.6%	5	4.6%	108
Campbelltown	6	1.0%	4	0.7%	23	3.9%	33	5.5%	25	4.2%	58	9.7%	595
Canterbury-Bankstown	108	4.9%	11	0.5%	237	10.8%	356	16.3%	117	5.3%	126	5.8%	2,188
Cumberland	104	5.5%	21	1.1%	154	8.2%	279	14.9%	147	7.8%	108	5.8%	1,876
Fairfield	16	1.3%	-	0.0%	78	6.5%	94	7.8%	62	5.1%	81	6.7%	1,207
Hawkesbury	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	3.6%	6	3.6%	7	4.2%	44	26.3%	167
Liverpool	9	1.2%	-	0.0%	31	4.2%	40	5.4%	36	4.8%	63	8.5%	743
Parramatta	69	9.5%	8	1.1%	105	14.5%	182	25.2%	68	9.4%	45	6.2%	723
Penrith	4	0.7%	-	0.0%	12	2.1%	16	2.8%	22	3.9%	49	8.6%	569
The Hills Shire	5	3.0%	-	0.0%	19	11.6%	24	14.6%	7	4.3%	33	20.1%	164
Wollondilly	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	4	4.7%	4	4.7%	13	15.1%	20	23.3%	86
Greater Western Sydney	350	3.6%	51	0.5%	755	7.8%	1,156	11.9%	600	6.2%	752	7.8%	9,695
Lithgow	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	3	9.7%	31
Wingecarribee	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	9.2%	6	9.2%	4	6.2%	3	4.6%	65
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	8	0.9%	-	0.0%	35	4.1%	43	5.0%	38	4.4%	105	12.2%	861
DCJ South Western Sydney	139	2.8%	15	0.3%	385	7.7%	539	10.8%	262	5.2%	356	7.1%	4,992
DCJ Western Sydney	203	5.2%	36	0.9%	341	8.7%	580	14.7%	304	7.7%	297	7.5%	3,938
Greater Sydney	1,167	5.4%	167	0.8%	2,561	11.8%	3,895	18.0%	1,657	7.6%	1,750	8.1%	21,663
Rest of NSW	199	2.5%	45	0.6%	541	6.7%	785	9.8%	385	4.8%	1,084	13.5%	8,037
NSW	1,372	4.6%	214	0.7%	3,107	10.5%	4,693	15.8%	2,038	6.9%	2,838	9.6%	29,700

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## (cont.) 13.1 Educational attainment, persons experiencing homelessness, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Educational attainment	Secor Education 10 and	n - Years	Certifica Le		Secor Education 9 and I	n - Years	Supplen Coc		Not stated		Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	504	42.9%	-	0.0%	86	7.3%	89	7.6%	190	16.2%	1,175
Blue Mountains	30	31.9%	5	5.3%	-	0.0%	3	3.2%	11	11.7%	94
Camden	56	51.9%	-	0.0%	11	10.2%	5	4.6%	21	19.4%	108
Campbelltown	258	43.4%	-	0.0%	58	9.7%	21	3.5%	130	21.8%	595
Canterbury-Bankstown	873	39.9%	-	0.0%	227	10.4%	128	5.9%	358	16.4%	2,188
Cumberland	671	35.8%	-	0.0%	235	12.5%	188	10.0%	263	14.0%	1,876
Fairfield	530	43.9%	-	0.0%	167	13.8%	149	12.3%	128	10.6%	1,207
Hawkesbury	61	36.5%	-	0.0%	19	11.4%	9	5.4%	21	12.6%	167
Liverpool	305	41.0%	-	0.0%	80	10.8%	67	9.0%	152	20.5%	743
Parramatta	214	29.6%	-	0.0%	33	4.6%	34	4.7%	144	19.9%	723
Penrith	234	41.1%	-	0.0%	52	9.1%	22	3.9%	167	29.3%	569
The Hills Shire	48	29.3%	-	0.0%	11	6.7%	9	5.5%	25	15.2%	164
Wollondilly	39	45.3%	-	0.0%	7	8.1%	5	5.8%	10	11.6%	86
Greater Western Sydney	3,823	39.4%	5	0.1%	986	10.2%	729	7.5%	1,620	16.7%	9,695
Lithgow	4	12.9%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	13	41.9%	31
Wingecarribee	17	26.2%	-	0.0%	13	20.0%	-	0.0%	13	20.0%	65
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	329	38.2%	5	0.6%	71	8.2%	34	3.9%	212	24.6%	861
DCJ South Western Sydney	2,078	41.6%	-	0.0%	563	11.3%	375	7.5%	812	16.3%	4,992
DCJ Western Sydney	1,437	36.5%	-	0.0%	365	9.3%	320	8.1%	622	15.8%	3,938
Greater Sydney	6,744	31.1%	19	0.1%	1,503	6.9%	1,166	5.4%	4,922	22.7%	21,663
Rest of NSW	2,413	30.0%	17	0.2%	815	10.1%	235	2.9%	2,293	28.5%	8,037
NSW	9,158	30.8%	41	0.1%	2,322	7.8%	1,402	4.7%	7,213	24.3%	29,700

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



#### 13.2 Educational attainment, persons experiencing marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Educational attainment	Postgra Degree		Graduate and Gra Certifica	aduate	Bachelor Lev		Bache higł		Adva Diplom Diplom	na and	Certificat Lev		Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	74	5.1%	14	1.0%	181	12.5%	269	18.5%	79	5.4%	137	9.4%	1,451
Blue Mountains	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	5	18.5%	5	18.5%	3	11.1%	8	29.6%	27
Camden	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	8	4.1%	8	4.1%	9	4.6%	21	10.8%	194
Campbelltown	8	1.2%	5	0.8%	35	5.4%	48	7.4%	35	5.4%	69	10.6%	651
Canterbury-Bankstown	152	5.3%	11	0.4%	382	13.3%	545	18.9%	268	9.3%	181	6.3%	2,879
Cumberland	233	8.5%	14	0.5%	340	12.3%	587	21.3%	247	9.0%	174	6.3%	2,756
Fairfield	27	1.2%	3	0.1%	167	7.3%	197	8.7%	142	6.2%	155	6.8%	2,273
Hawkesbury	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	8	5.0%	8	5.0%	16	9.9%	35	21.7%	161
Liverpool	15	1.4%	3	0.3%	53	4.9%	71	6.5%	58	5.3%	101	9.3%	1,089
Parramatta	115	14.9%	5	0.6%	174	22.5%	294	38.1%	73	9.5%	41	5.3%	772
Penrith	12	2.1%	3	0.5%	44	7.7%	59	10.3%	38	6.6%	76	13.3%	572
The Hills Shire	19	10.7%	-	0.0%	44	24.7%	63	35.4%	22	12.4%	16	9.0%	178
Wollondilly	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	6.1%	21	21.4%	98
Greater Western Sydney	655	5.0%	58	0.4%	1,441	11. <b>0</b> %	2,154	16.4%	996	7.6%	1,035	7.9%	13,101
Lithgow	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	6	7.2%	6	7.2%	-	0.0%	15	18.1%	83
Wingecarribee	4	4.5%	-	0.0%	19	21.6%	23	26.1%	10	11.4%	20	22.7%	88
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	12	1.4%	3	0.4%	63	7.5%	78	9.3%	57	6.8%	134	15.9%	843
DCJ South Western Sydney	206	2.8%	22	0.3%	664	9.1%	892	12.3%	528	7.3%	568	7.8%	7,272
DCJ Western Sydney	441	8.6%	33	0.6%	739	14.3%	1,213	23.5%	421	8.2%	368	7.1%	5,157
Greater Sydney	1,208	6.2%	114	0.6%	2,754	14. <b>0</b> %	4,076	20.8%	2,034	10.4%	1,544	7.9%	19,613
Rest of NSW	123	2.0%	44	0.7%	389	6.2%	556	8.8%	360	5.7%	1,046	16.6%	6,307
NSW	1,334	5.1%	161	0.6%	3,147	12.1%	4,642	17.9%	2,393	9.2%	2,591	10.0%	25,917

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



## (cont.) 13.2 Educational attainment, persons marginally housed, 2021 (counts and percentages)

Educational attainment	Secor Education 10 and	n - Years	Certifica Lev		Secor Education 9 and	n - Years	Suppler Coo		Not stated		Total applicable population
Regions	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Blacktown	697	48.0%	-	0.0%	122	8.4%	78	5.4%	66	4.5%	1,451
Blue Mountains	9	33.3%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	27
Camden	109	56.2%	-	0.0%	15	7.7%	15	7.7%	7	3.6%	194
Campbelltown	351	53.9%	-	0.0%	68	10.4%	48	7.4%	34	5.2%	651
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,268	44.0%	6	0.2%	241	8.4%	216	7.5%	153	5.3%	2,879
Cumberland	1,030	37.4%	3	0.1%	299	10.8%	262	9.5%	159	5.8%	2,756
Fairfield	1,115	49.1%	-	0.0%	301	13.2%	279	12.3%	84	3.7%	2,273
Hawkesbury	75	46.6%	-	0.0%	16	9.9%	7	4.3%	7	4.3%	161
Liverpool	558	51.2%	3	0.3%	150	13.8%	109	10.0%	35	3.2%	1,089
Parramatta	247	32.0%	-	0.0%	49	6.3%	38	4.9%	27	3.5%	772
Penrith	275	48.1%	-	0.0%	48	8.4%	34	5.9%	48	8.4%	572
The Hills Shire	61	34.3%	-	0.0%	10	5.6%	3	1.7%	7	3.9%	178
Wollondilly	48	49.0%	-	0.0%	20	20.4%	4	4.1%	6	6.1%	98
Greater Western Sydney	5,843	44.6%	12	0.1%	1,339	10.2%	1,093	8.3%	633	4.8%	13,101
Lithgow	41	49.4%	-	0.0%	13	15.7%	-	0.0%	7	8.4%	83
Wingecarribee	25	28.4%	-	0.0%	6	6.8%	7	8.0%	10	11.4%	88
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	400	47.4%	-	0.0%	77	9.1%	41	4.9%	62	7.4%	843
DCJ South Western Sydney	3,474	47.8%	9	0.1%	801	11. <b>0</b> %	678	9.3%	329	4.5%	7,272
DCJ Western Sydney	2,035	39.5%	3	0.1%	480	9.3%	381	7.4%	259	5.0%	5,157
Greater Sydney	7,900	40.3%	23	0.1%	1,606	8.2%	1,373	7.0%	1,055	5.4%	19,613
Rest of NSW	2,523	40.0%	16	0.3%	963	15.3%	250	4.0%	581	9.2%	6,307
NSW	10,421	40.2%	<b>36</b>	0.1%	2,575	9.9%	1,619	6.2%	1,637	6.3%	25,917

Source: ABS TableBuilder, 2021 Census - counting persons, estimating homelessness



Number of clients	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022-23	1-year %- change	5-year %- change
Regions	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	% Change	% Change
Blacktown	2,618	2,563	2,576	2,775	2,751	2,613	-5.0%	-0.2%
Blue Mountains	527	402	508	617	583	529	-9.3%	0.4%
Camden	457	241	237	317	293	308	5.1%	-32.6%
Campbelltown	2,308	2,117	2,034	2,161	2,280	2,376	4.2%	2.9%
Canterbury-Bankstown	1,899	1,905	1,787	1,888	2,064	1,677	-18.8%	-11.7%
Cumberland	999	1,151	1,051	1,041	1,129	1,023	-9.4%	2.4%
Fairfield	946	942	883	784	748	679	-9.2%	-28.2%
Hawkesbury	541	521	520	488	412	397	-3.6%	-26.6%
Liverpool	1,442	1,411	1,368	1,425	1,436	1,296	-9.7%	-10.1%
Parramatta	932	849	725	769	876	1,033	17.9%	10.8%
Penrith	2,013	1,931	2,201	2,073	2,252	2,589	15.0%	28.6%
The Hills Shire	236	261	292	276	277	275	-0.7%	16.5%
Wollondilly	433	249	263	283	208	176	-15.4%	-59.4%
Greater Western Sydney	15,351	14,543	14,445	14,897	15,309	14,971	-2.2%	-2.5%
Lithgow	300	327	364	329	281	317	12.8%	5.7%
Wingecarribee	432	248	246	232	178	133	-25.3%	-69.2%
DCJ Nepean Blue Mountains	3,381	3,181	3,593	3,507	3,528	3,832	8.6%	13.3%
DCJ South Western Sydney	7,917	7,113	6,818	7,090	7,207	6,645	-7.8%	-16.1%
DCJ Western Sydney	4,785	4,824	4,644	4,861	5,033	4,944	-1.8%	3.3%
Greater Sydney	27,875	26,035	25,619	25,473	26,517	26,172	-1.3%	-6.1%
Rest of NSW	39,046	37,354	38,692	37,085	35,086	35,184	0.3%	-9.9%
NSW	66,921	63,389	64,311	62,558	61,603	61,356	-0.4%	-8.3%

# 14.1 Geographic location of clients, 2018-19 to 2023-24 (counts and percentage changes)

Source: AIHW Data Exploration Tool, Specialist Homelessness Services, Client geography: LGA (2014-15 to 2021-22), Client geography: LGA (2022-23 and 2023-24), Client geography: state/territory (2014-15 to 2021-22), and Client geography: state/territory (2022-23 and 2023-24) https://dataexplorer.aihw.gov.au/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml



#### 14.2 Computation of counts for comparative regions, geographic location of clients, 2018-19 to 2023-24

Counts for Greater Sydney were obtained from the summation of the counts of 34 LGAs:

1. Bayside	10. Cumberland	19. Liverpool	28. Sutherland Shire
2. Blacktown	11. Fairfield	20. Mosman	29. Sydney
3. Blue Mountains	12. Georges River	21. North Sydney	30. The Hills Shire
4. Burwood	13. Hawkesbury	22. Northern Beaches	31. Waverley
5. Camden	14. Hornsby	23. Parramatta	32. Willoughby
6. Campbelltown	15. Hunters Hill	24. Penrith	33. Wollondilly
7. Canada Bay	16. Inner West	25. Randwick	34. Woollahra
8. Canterbury-Bankstown	17.Ku-ring-gai	26.Ryde	
9. Central Coast	18. Lane Cove	27. Strathfield	

Counts for the Rest of NSW were obtained from the difference between counts for NSW and counts for Greater Sydney, which are therefore an approximation of the actual values.

