

# Foundations for change — Homelessness in NSW



## The Issue

Homelessness is often a symptom of other social problems like poverty, unemployment and shortages of affordable housing. People are at a higher risk of homelessness when several issues intersect, such as domestic and family violence, trauma, mental illness, drug and alcohol problems and financial stresses.

On **Census night in 2011**, there were:

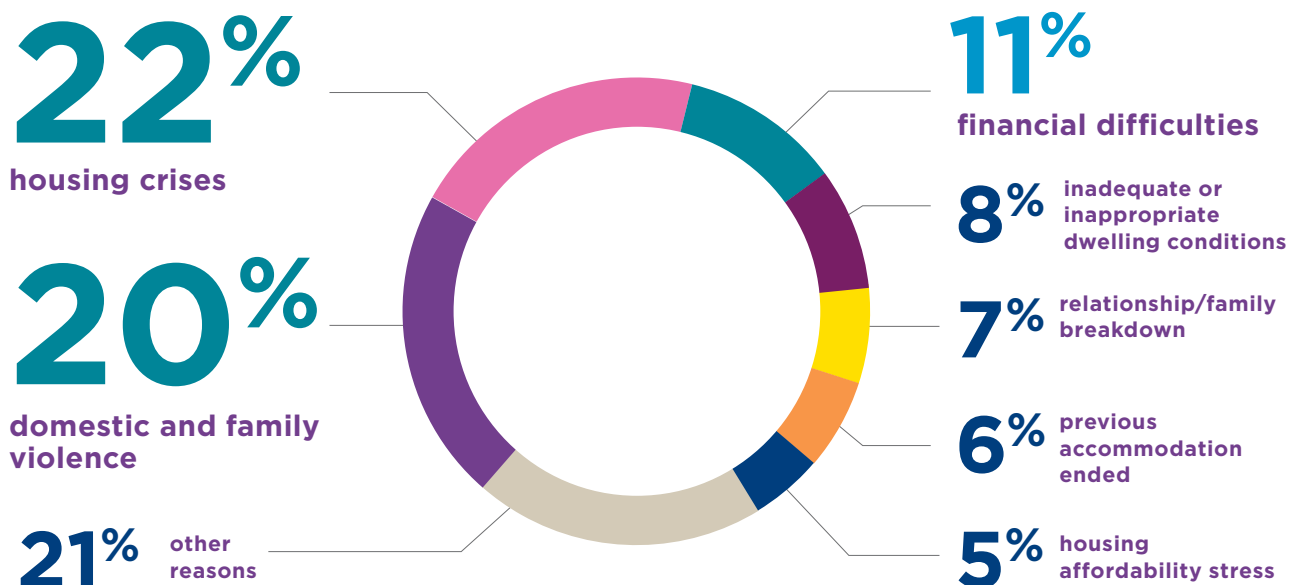
# 28,192

people who were homeless in NSW  
around —

# 1 in every 250 people

This represents an **increase of 20%**  
from the 2006 Census.

## Primary reasons given by people for seeking help from specialist homelessness services:



## Addressing the challenges

The NSW Government is serious about tackling homelessness. In 2016-17 the Government will spend **\$188 million on specialist homelessness** services that will **respond to around 58,000 people** who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

**Effective action** on homelessness relies on **all government and community organisations working together** across prevention, early intervention and crisis responses.



**Targeted action** by government **can impact homelessness** — especially by identifying risks and addressing the underlying causes of homelessness.



We know that **when we respond quickly** we can often **help families and individuals avoid homelessness.**



## Specialist homelessness services are already making a difference

integrating crisis-driven responses and early intervention to prevent homelessness.



*Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW* will **increase the supply of social and affordable housing** and **provide further investment** in private rental products and support for people to access education and employment opportunities.



## The NSW Government has released a discussion paper: ***Foundations for Change – Homelessness in NSW.***

It aims to engage a wide range of organisations and individuals to **strengthen collective action** and **develop a new strategy for reducing homelessness.**

The new homelessness strategy will bring a much **stronger focus** to the **prevention of homelessness**, not just managing it. The strategy will create a framework for **collective action across all levels of government, non-government sectors and the community to ensure:**

fewer people  
experience  
homelessness



people in NSW find  
secure places to live



people are  
empowered to  
tackle the issues that  
put them at risk of  
homelessness



## We want to hear from you

**We are seeking comments, feedback and ideas** relevant to the issues outlined in the discussion paper.

**For a copy of the discussion paper** and opportunities to attend face to face consultation visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/homelessnessstrategy](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/homelessnessstrategy)

### How to have your say:

Make a formal submission:

**online:** [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/homelessnessstrategy](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/homelessnessstrategy)

**via email:** [Homelessness.Strategy@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Homelessness.Strategy@facs.nsw.gov.au)

**by post:** Homelessness Strategy Team  
Strategic Reform & Policy  
Department of Family and Community Services  
Locked Bag 10  
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Please note that feedback must be received by  
**5pm 28 October 2016.**

*The closing date for feedback was extended from 14 October on 29 September 2016.*

### Face to face consultation:

Formal submissions will be supported by facilitated consultations with the sector, roundtables and targeted Aboriginal consultation.