

WA GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

2026 Report on Government Services

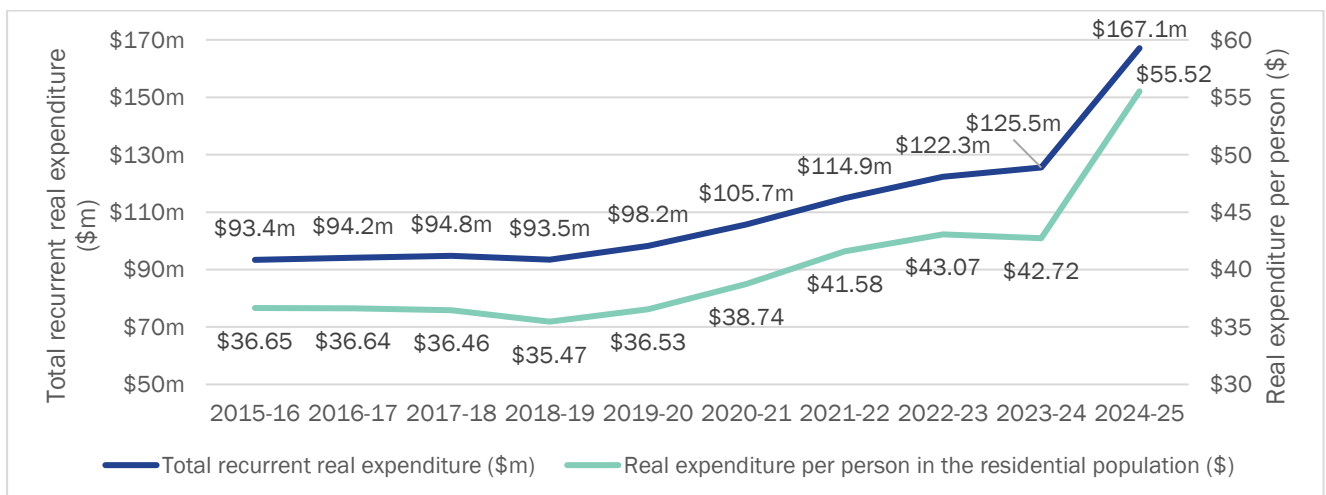
Key Figures

- Total Western Australian Government real recurrent expenditure on homelessness services increased from \$125.5m in 2023-24 to \$167.1m in 2024-25. Further, per capita real recurrent expenditure increased from \$42.72 to \$55.52.
- Total Western Australian Government real recurrent expenditure on social housing increased from \$898.5m in 2023-24 to \$924.8m in 2024-25. There was a slight increase in real per capita recurrent expenditure on social housing from \$305.86 to \$307.26 per capita.
- Real Western Australian Government capital expenditure on social housing increased from \$413.1m in 2023-24 to \$575.0m in 2024-25.
- Real Western Australian Government expenditure (net recurrent and capital) on social has increased by 46.4% since 2015-16, compared to 65.0% nationally.
- Real Western Australian Government expenditure on homelessness services has increased by 78.9% since 2015-16, compared to an increase of 79.5% nationally.

Homelessness Services and Social Housing Funding

Total WA Government recurrent real expenditure on homelessness services has consistently increased over the last five years in real terms (2024-25 dollars) from \$105.7 million in 2020-21 to \$167.1 million in 2024-25. Over this same time period, real expenditure per person has increased from \$38.74 to \$55.52 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Western Australian government expenditure on homelessness services, by financial year (2024-25 \$)

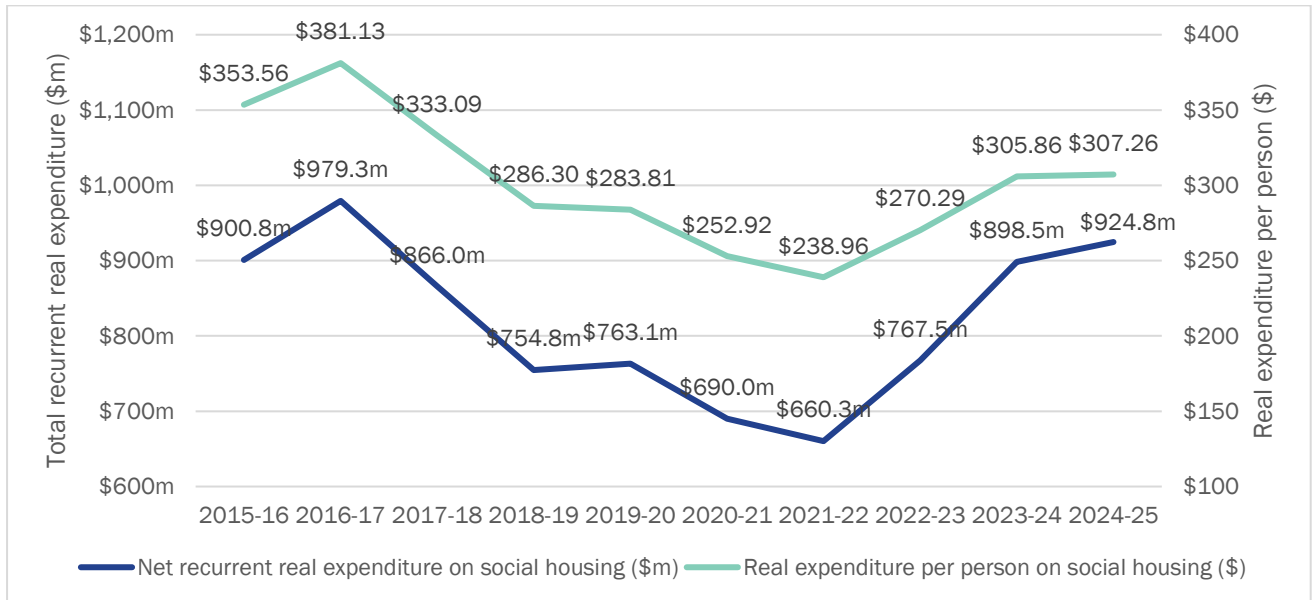


Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2026 Report on Government Services.

WA GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

As compared with recurrent spending on homelessness services, total recurrent real expenditure on social housing decreased from \$979.3 million in 2016-17 to \$660.3 million in 2021-22 before increasing significantly in 2023-24 to \$898.5 million. Correspondingly, real expenditure per person decreased from \$381.13 to \$238.96 before rising sharply to \$305.86 in 2023-24 (Figure 2). In 2024-25, total recurrent real expenditure on social housing increased slightly to \$924.8 million (\$307.26 per person).

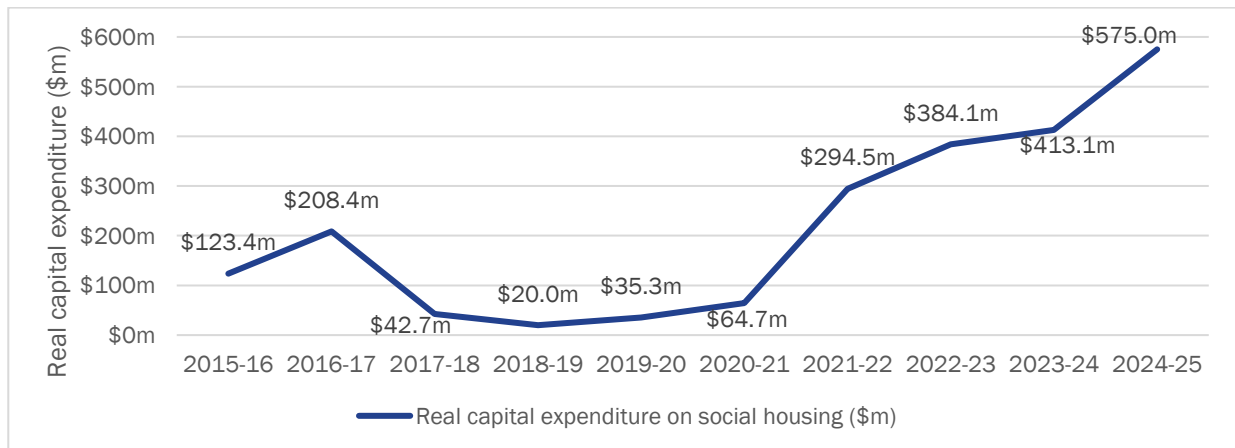
Figure 2: Western Australian government net recurrent expenditure on social housing, by financial year (2024-25 \$)



Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, and 2026 Report on Government Services.

Figure 3 presents trends in WA Government real capital expenditure on social housing. Real capital expenditure on social housing fell through 2017-18 to 2020-21 before rising sharply in 2021-22 and increasing again in 2024-25. The fall in real capital expenditure on social housing resulted in a drop in the social housing stock. The significant increases in recent years will act to arrest the decline in social housing stock. Recent budget decisions will result in further injections of real capital expenditure and assist in meeting housing affordability and housing supply concerns in Western Australia.

Figure 3: Western Australian government real capital expenditure on social housing, by financial year (2024-25 \$)

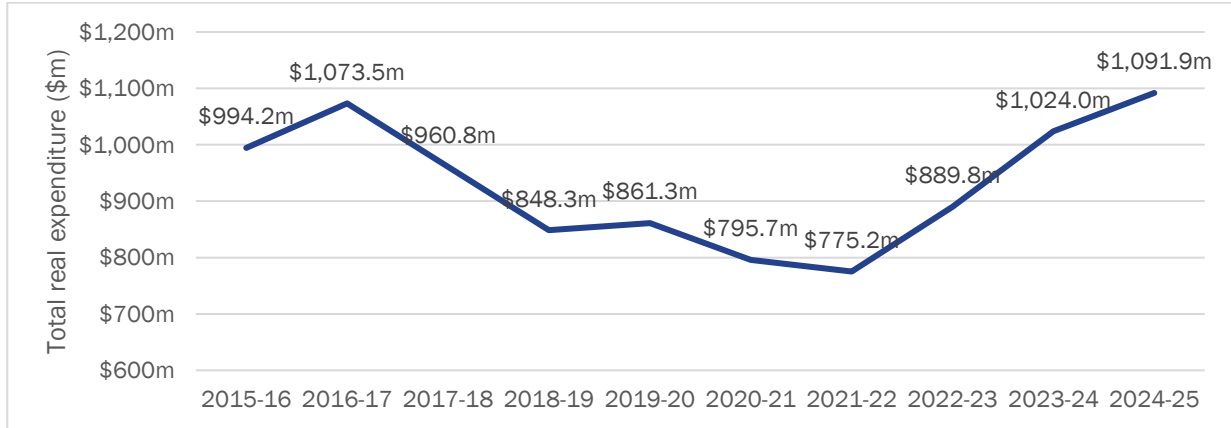


Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, and 2026 Report on Government Services.

WA GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

Figure 4 provides estimates of real expenditure by the Western Australian Government on both social housing and homelessness services between 2015-16 and 2024-25.

Figure 4: Western Australian government total net recurrent social housing expenditure and homelessness services expenditure, by financial year (2024-25 \$)

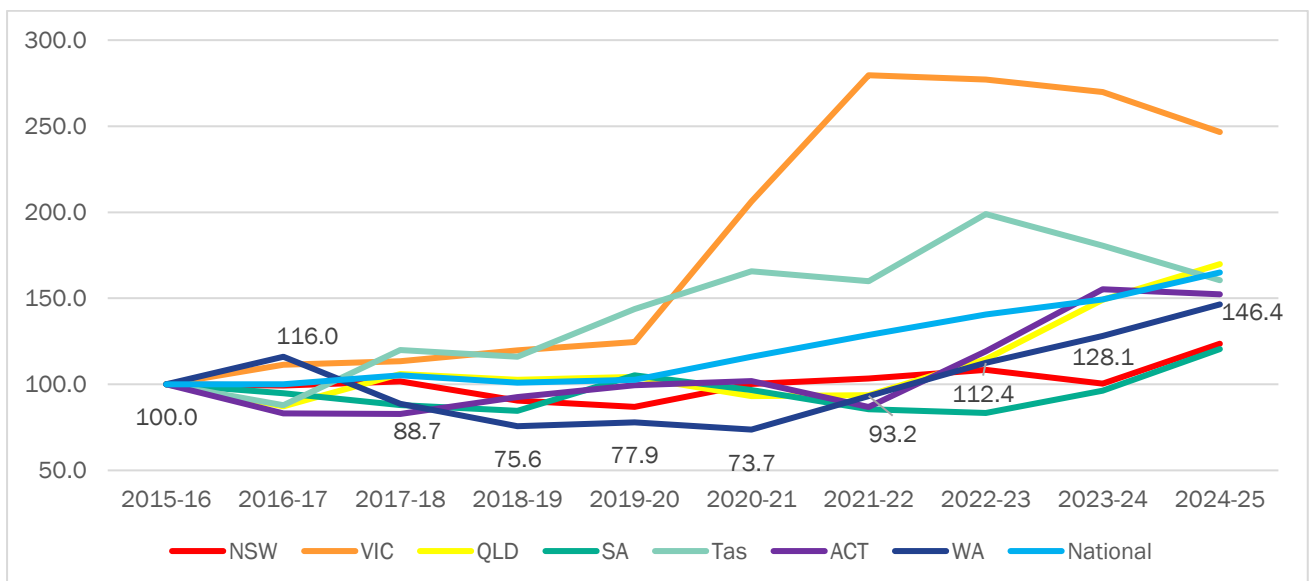


Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2026 Report on Government Services.

Index Series

An index series was created to provide a means of comparing trends in real expenditure on social housing between states and territories (Figure 5). The baseline used for this index was 2015-16 (100), with an increase of the index (i.e., greater than 100) representing a growth in expenditure and a decrease of the index (i.e., less than 100) representing a drop in expenditure. Compared to 2015-16, real expenditure on social housing has increased by 46.4% for Western Australia compared to a 65.0% increase nationally. However, the increase in social housing has only occurred in the last three years. As can be seen in Figure 5, between 2017-18 and 2020-21, real social housing expenditure on social housing in WA fell relative to the base level and to other jurisdictions and was 26.3% below that in 2015-16.

Figure 5: Total real expenditure on social housing (net recurrent and capital expenditure) index series, by State, by financial year (base year 2015-16)

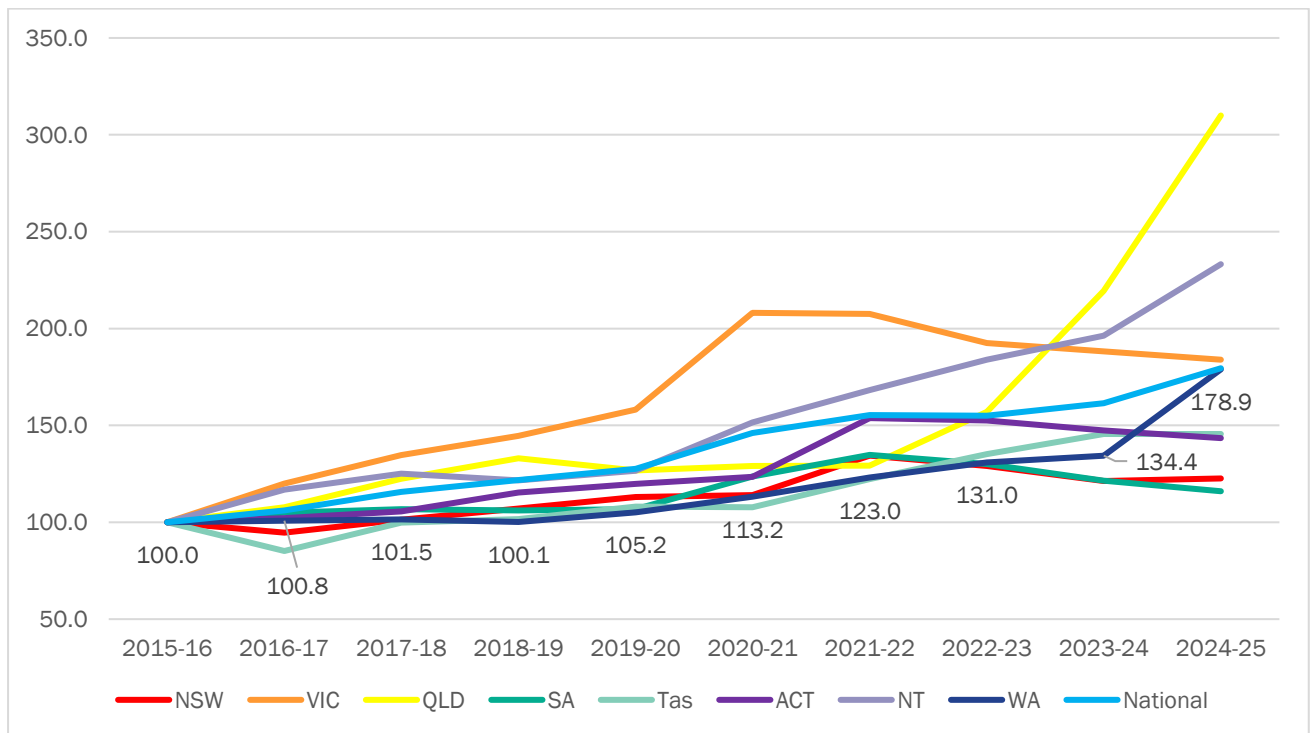


Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, and 2026 Report on Government Services. Excludes NT due to inconsistencies. Data is labelled for WA only.

WA GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

An index series for real expenditure on homelessness services for States and Territories is presented in Figure 6. The baseline used for this index was 2015-16 (100). Compared to 2015-16, real expenditure on homelessness services increased by 78.9% for Western Australia by 2024-25 which was roughly comparable to the growth nationally over the same period. Western Australian real expenditure on homelessness services had been lagging behind national trends but there was a dramatic increase in real expenditure on homelessness services in 2024-25 in Western Australia increasing by 33.1 per cent in one year.

Figure 6: Real expenditure on homelessness services index series, by State, by financial year (base year 2015-16)



Source: Productivity Commission 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2026 Report on Government Services. Data is labelled for WA only.

Methodology Notes

Real expenditure figures reported in 2024-25 dollars were retrieved from the 2026 Report on Government Services (Productivity Commission, 2026a; 2026b). In order to extend the time series back to 2015-16, nominal figures for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 were retrieved from the respective reports for those years (Productivity Commission, 2017a; 2017b; 2018a; 2018b; 2019; 2020a; 2021) and converted to 2024-25 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (Productivity Commission, 2026c). In cases where historical financial data had been revised in subsequent years, real figures were converted to nominal figures based on the GGFCE chain price deflator for the respective year (Productivity Commission, 2020b) and converted to 2024-25 dollars using the 2026 GGFCE chain price deflator (Productivity Commission, 2026c). Expenditure per person in the population was re-estimated based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) December quarterly population estimates for the respective years (ABS, 2025). Accordingly, values presented in the figures may differ slightly from those reported in the Reports on Government Services due to the adjustments described above and revisions made by the ABS to population estimates since the Reports on Government Services were released.

Authors: Paul Flatau and Zoe Callis

Centre for Social Impact

WA GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SNAPSHOT

The University of Western Australia

References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2025). Table 4 Estimated Resident Population, States and Territories (Number). *National, state and territory population June 2025*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/jun-2025>
- Productivity Commission. (2017a). Volume G Housing and homelessness, Chapter 18 Housing [Table 18A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2017*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2017/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2017b). Volume G Housing and homelessness, Chapter 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.3]. *Report on Government Services 2017*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2017/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2018a). Part G Housing and homelessness, Chapter 18 Housing [Table 18A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2018*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2018b). Part G Housing and homelessness, Chapter 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2018*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2019). Part G Housing and homelessness, Chapter 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2019*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2019/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2020a). Part G Housing and homelessness, Section 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2020*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2020/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2020b). Part A Approach to performance reporting, Section 2 Statistical context [Table 2A.49]. *Report on Government Services 2020*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2020/data-downloads>
- Productivity Commission. (2021). Part G Housing and homelessness, Section 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2021*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2021/data-downloads/>
- Productivity Commission. (2026a). Part G Housing and homelessness, Section 18 Housing [Table 18A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2026*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/housing-homelessness/housing/>
- Productivity Commission. (2026b). Part G Housing and homelessness, Section 19 Homelessness Services [Table 19A.1]. *Report on Government Services 2026*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/housing-homelessness/homelessness-services/>
- Productivity Commission. (2026c). Part A Approach to performance reporting, Section 2 Statistical context [Table 2A.27]. *Report on Government Services 2026*. <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/approach/statistical-context/>