

WAAEH DASHBOARD

MARCH 2026 QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The March 2026 bulletin is our first quarterly bulletin for 2026 for the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH) Dashboard. The WAAEH Dashboard is updated regularly and can be found on the WAAEH website at <https://waaeh.org.au/knowledge-hub/homelessness-dashboard/>

What's new this quarter?

Key updates this quarter include data drawn from latest releases of:

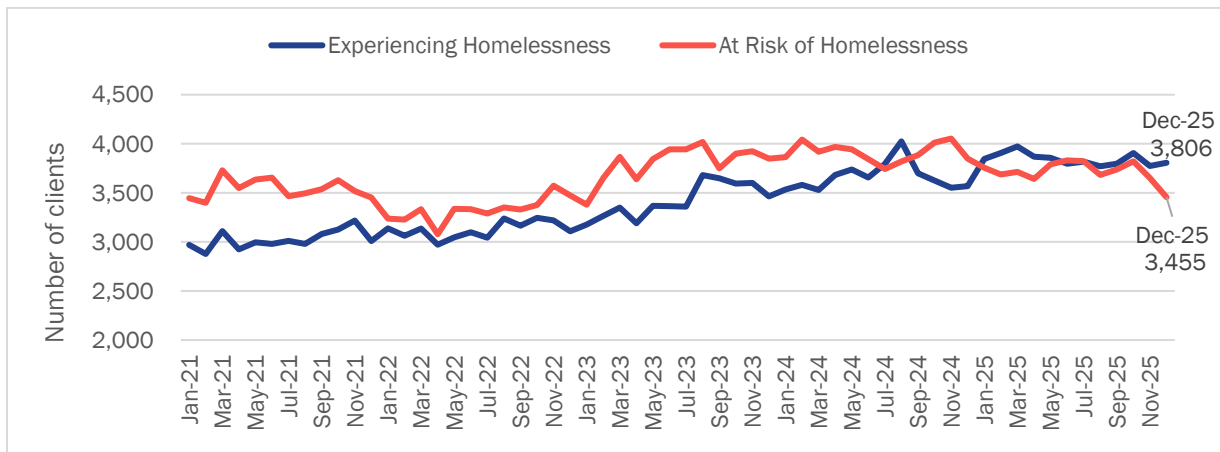
- Report on Government Services 2026
- December 2025 Quarter of the Specialist Homelessness Services monthly data
- ABS Labour Force data
- REIWA Perth Market Insights

Trends in Homelessness in Western Australia

Key SHS Figures

- The number of SHS clients experiencing homelessness on entry peaked in August 2024 reaching 4,024 clients. Over the December 2025 Quarter, the number of clients experiencing homelessness on entry increased slightly from 3,796 in September 2025 to 3,806 in December 2025.
- The number of SHS clients at risk of homelessness on entry peaked in November 2024 reaching 4,053. Over the December 2025 Quarter, the number of clients at risk of homelessness on entry decreased from 3,738 in September 2025 to 3,455 in December 2025.

Figure 1: Specialist Homelessness Services clients, Western Australia, by month



Source: AIHW 2026 Specialist Homelessness Services Monthly Data

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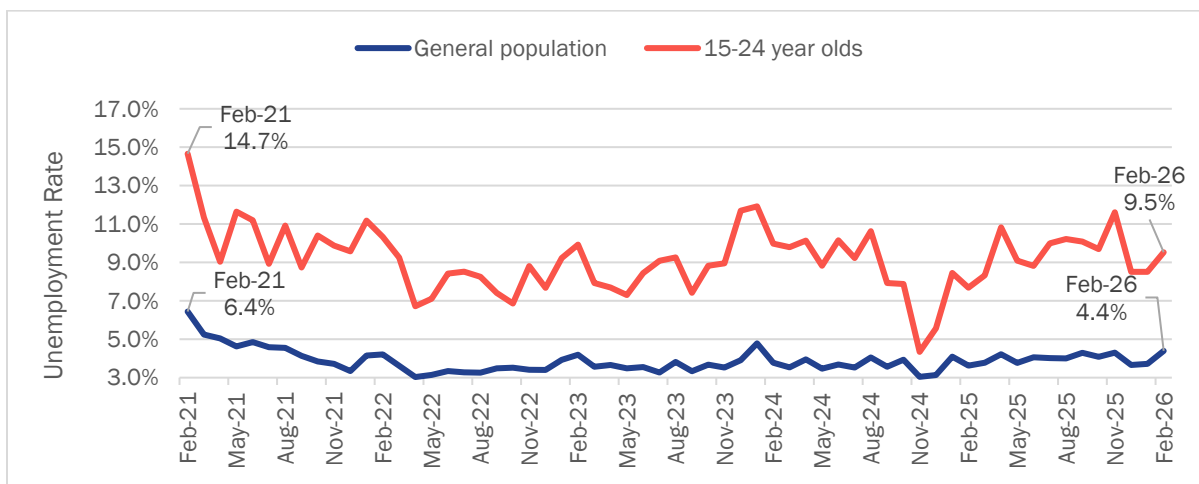
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Preventing Homelessness in WA

Key Figures

- **Rental Market:** Perth vacancy rates have remained above 1% since August 2024 and was 2.2% in February 2026. Median rents reached \$700 for units and \$730 for houses as of April 2026 representing a very large increase in rents over the last five years.
- **Unemployment:** Youth unemployment and general population unemployment rates in February 2026 (9.5% and 4.4%, respectively) decreased significantly since February 2021 (14.7% and 6.4%, respectively). The strong state of the WA labour market is acting to reduce pressures on homelessness at present.

Figure 2: Unemployment rate, youth and general population, Western Australia, by month



Source: ABS 2026 Labour Force, Australia

Homelessness Funding

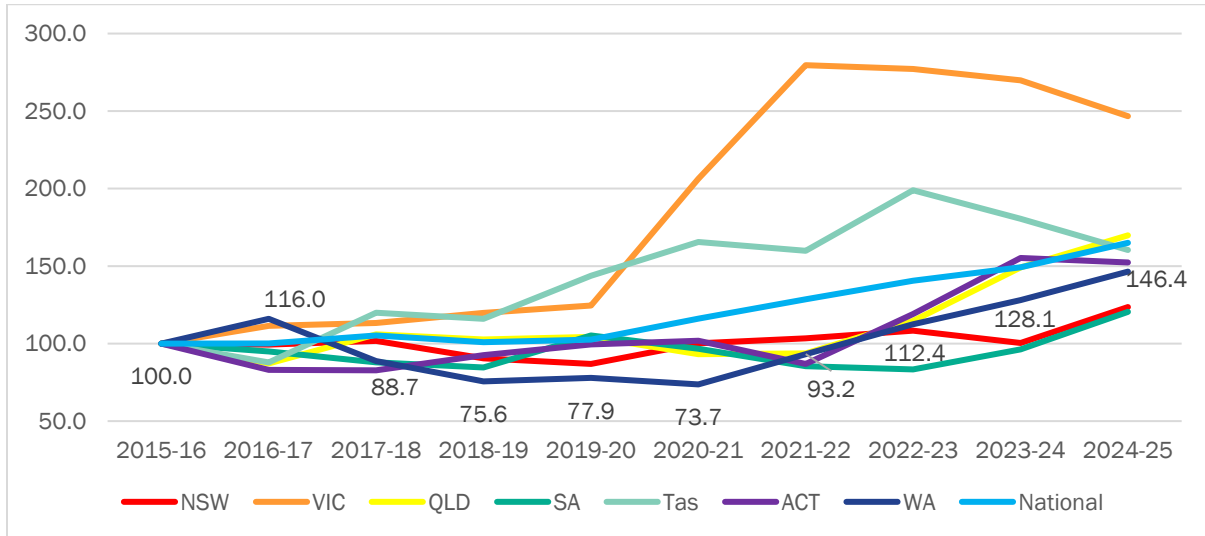
Housing and Homeless Funding: Key Figures from ROGS 2026

- 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 housing 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.

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Figure 3: 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.

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