

# WAAEH DASHBOARD

## JUNE 2026 QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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

### What's new this quarter?

The June 2026 Quarter update uses the WA Department of Health Western Australia Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System to measure trends in high or very high psychological distress (Figure 26) and Alcohol lifetime risk status (Figure 28) rather than previous sources (the National Health Survey and the National Drug Strategy Household Survey respectively) as part of our analysis of the underlying drivers of homelessness in WA (see: [Preventing Homelessness in WA](#)).

Other key updates this quarter include data drawn from latest releases of:

- March Quarter of the Specialist Homelessness Services monthly data
- AIHW Youth Justice in Australia
- AIHW Social Housing 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 4,023 clients. Over the March 2026 Quarter (the latest data available), the number of clients experiencing homelessness on entry increased from 3,810 in December 2025 to 4,004 in March 2026.
- The number of SHS clients at risk of homelessness on entry peaked in November 2024 reaching 4,053. Over the March 2026 Quarter, the number of clients at risk of homelessness on entry increased marginally from 3,465 in December 2025 to 3,560 in March 2026.

**Figure 1: Specialist Homelessness Services clients, Western Australia, April 2021 to March 2026, by month**



Source: AIHW 2026 Specialist Homelessness Services Monthly Data

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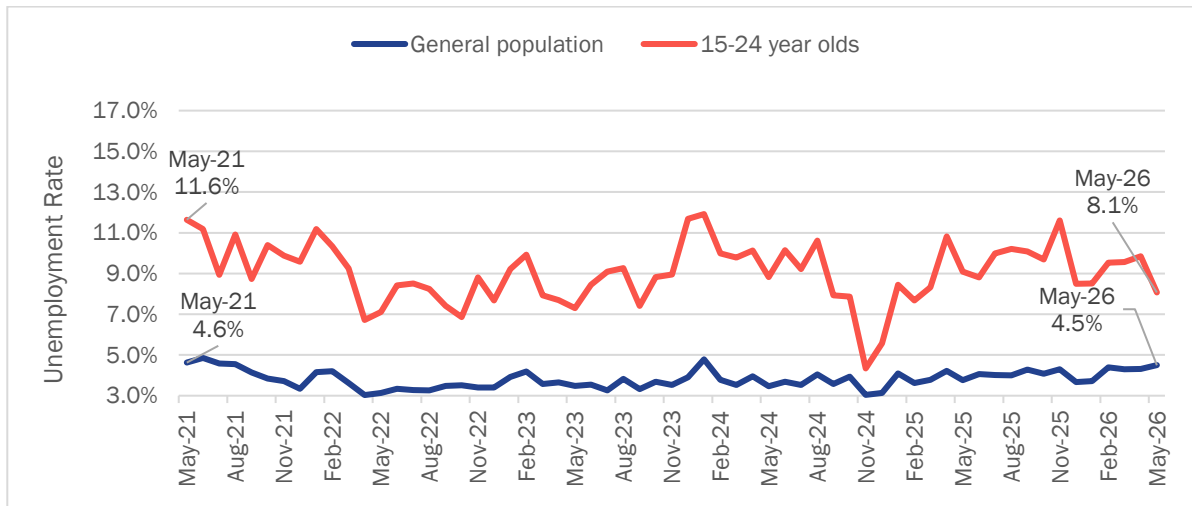
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### Preventing Homelessness in WA

#### Key Figures

- **Rental Market:** Perth vacancy rates remained below 1% from August 2022 to August 2024. In January 2025, they reached 2.0% for the first time since June 2020. During 2025 the vacancy rate remained above 2% but is currently sitting at 2.0% (May 2026). Between March 2026 and June 2026, median weekly rent for houses increased from \$720 to \$750 and increased from \$690 to \$700 for units. Rents have increased rapidly in real terms since 2021.
- **Youth in Detention:** the rate of Aboriginal children in detention increased from 237.6 per 10,000 in 2023-24 to 258.3 per 10,000 in 2024-25. The rate of non-Aboriginal children in detention decreased from 10.4 per 10,000 to 9.7 per 10,000 between 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- **Unemployment:** Youth unemployment and general population unemployment rates in May 2026 (8.1% and 4.5%, respectively) decreased since May 2021 (11.6% and 4.6%, 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, May 2021 to May 2026, by month



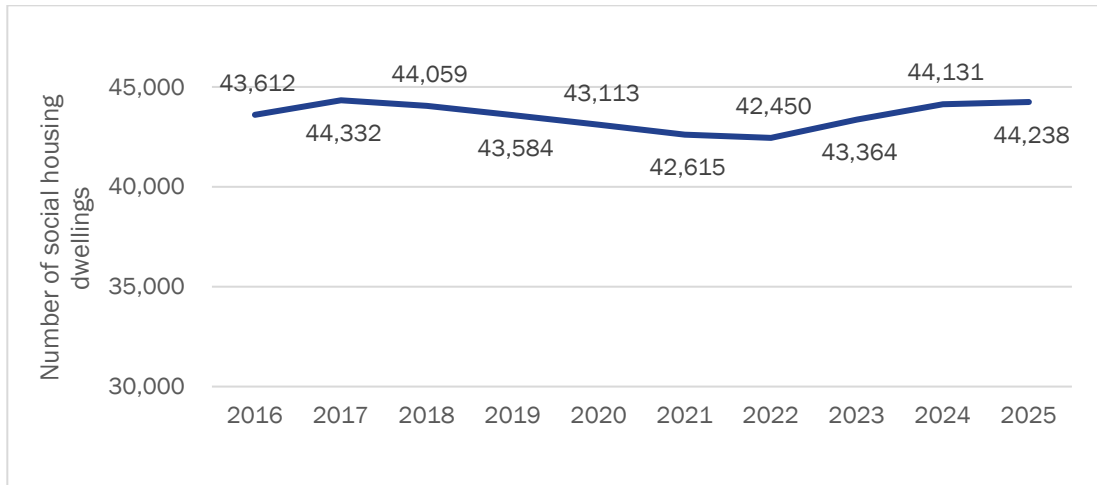
Source: ABS 2026 Labour Force, Australia

- **Social Housing:** As of 30 June 2025, the total number of social housing dwellings increased from 44,131 on 30 June 2024 to 44,238 in June 2025. Further, the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist increased from 20,294 on 30 June 2024 to 22,409 on 30 June 2025.

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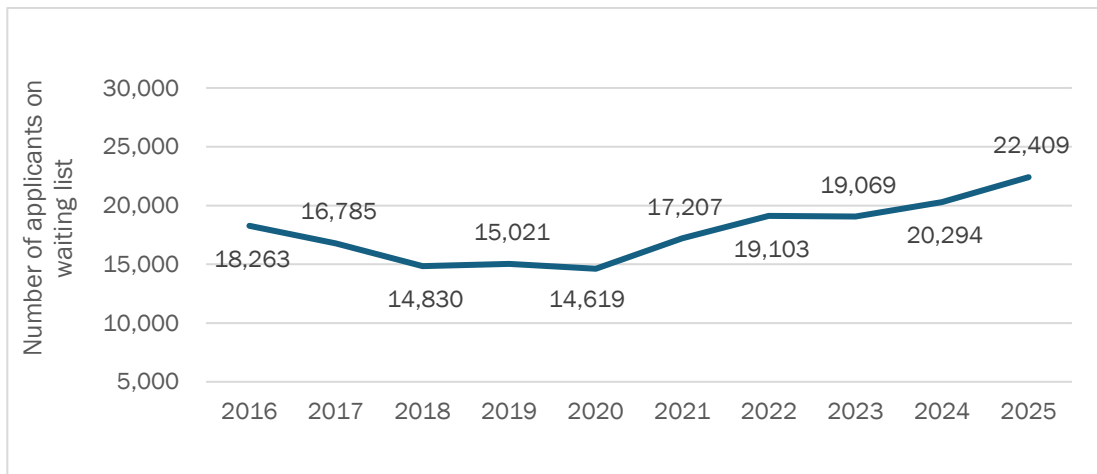
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Figure 3: Social housing dwellings, WA, as at 30 June, by year



Source: AIHW 2026 Housing Assistance in Australia

Figure 4: Waiting list applicants, WA, as at 30 June, by year



Source: AIHW 2026 Housing Assistance in Australia

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