

South Australia Statement of Priorities

The priority investment areas for South Australia will respond to the needs of the following cohorts:

- Young people at risk of homelessness, particularly those existing residential care settings, linked with support for young people to acquire the skills and resources they need to progress into independent housing in the longer term.
- Women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Aboriginal people, including women and families experiencing domestic and family violence requiring respite accommodation.

Young people

There is demand for transitional youth housing models in South Australia to support young people, particularly those exiting guardianship/care arrangements, to facilitate the successful transition to independent housing. Of particular interest to the State government are models that provide support for young people to develop life skills and financial capacity.

South Australia's homelessness data demonstrates high rates of unmet need for short-term accommodation amongst youth, particularly Aboriginal youth, including in regional areas. In 2023/24:

- In South Australia, 118.9 clients per 10,000 were young people presenting alone to specialist homelessness services (15-24) (second highest of the interest groups).
- Two-fifths of young people aged 15-24 presenting alone, who need short-term accommodation neither receive it from the service nor are they referred to another agency for the service.
- One in three (30%) young people leaving out-of-home care experience homelessness at some stage in their first year after leaving care.

Examples of potential projects:

- Transitional youth accommodation models that provide safe and supportive independent accommodations for ten or more young people. Particularly in regions with demonstrated demand such as the Adelaide's outer-north and outer-southern suburbs, Mount Gambier and Whyalla.
- Youth crisis accommodation in regional areas.

These proposals will address current challenges in South Australia achieving sustainable housing outcomes for young people, particularly those exiting the child protection system at 18 who often lack the resources, skills and support they require to transition directly to independent accommodation.

Women and children experiencing domestic family violence

South Australia is seeking to reduce reliance on hotel/motel accommodation for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. Increasing the supply of appropriate residential crisis accommodation will provide better amenities necessary for daily living, including laundry and cooking facilities, alongside opportunities to retain pets, their furniture and belongings, which improves the capacity of victim-survivors to transition to and sustain independent housing in the longer term. Increasing safe and secure crisis accommodation options that enable women, where it is safe to do so, to maintain their connections to their community.

In South Australia, family and domestic violence is the second-most common reason for seeking specialist homelessness service. In the 2023/24 financial year, over 2,600 people presented with domestic and family violence issues to a specialist homelessness service. Roughly half of these (1,283 clients) presented in regional areas.

Examples of potential projects:

- Small-scale cluster or scattered residential models that can better meet the needs families experiencing domestic and family violence.

Aboriginal people, including women and families experiencing domestic and family violence requiring respite accommodation

There is a lack of culturally appropriate short stay accommodation in metropolitan and regional centres appropriate for Aboriginal people, including people travelling from remote communities to access services and Aboriginal women experiencing family violence who may be seeking a period of respite to support family healing.

Of the more than 2,600 people who presented with domestic and family violence issues to a specialist homelessness service, 600 identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Examples of potential projects:

- Culturally safe respite accommodation that respond to the needs of Aboriginal women and children experiencing family violence
- Culturally appropriate transitional housing for Aboriginal people in regional centres to support people travelling from remote communities to access services.

Around 1 in 3 (28%) specialist homelessness services clients are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (third largest client group), with short-term or emergency accommodation being the service most needed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients (48% or 38,199 clients).

Proposed jurisdictional support

The State Government may contribute equity in the form of land or sales where appropriate and/or debt collateralisation. In addition, operational funds, particularly specialist homelessness services funding, may be allocated towards support services for these sites.