



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Child Protection**



Your ref: Petition 137

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter dated 12 March 2012 seeking information on the total number of people requiring emergency accommodation, as well as a breakdown of this figure by location, age and gender.

The latest available data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Counting the Homeless 2006 census indicates that across Western Australia there were 13,391 people who were homeless.

Of the 13,391 homeless people, 1,652 people were staying in boarding houses, 1,395 in government funded specialist homelessness services accommodation, 7,952 were staying with friends and relatives and 2,392 were sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings. Attached is a summary of the breakdown of homeless people by statistical division and sub-division, age and gender. A more detailed report can be found on the Counting the Homeless website by following the link <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468266>.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report into *People turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2010-11* indicates that in Western Australia (WA), on an average day, a total of 1,232 people (including accompanying children), either requested new accommodation or continued in accommodation. Of these, 30 (2.4 per cent) people requesting new immediate accommodation were turned away and 1,202 were newly accommodated or continued in accommodation. A more detailed report can be found on the Turnaway Report website by following the link <http://www.aihw.gov.au/homelessness-publications/>.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Terry Murphy
DIRECTOR GENERAL

4 April 2012

Att: Number of homeless people in Western Australia – 2006 Census

Number of Homeless People in Western Australia - 2006 Census

Accommodation on Census Night

Accommodation Type	Number	Percentage
Boarding houses	1,652	12.3%
SAAP accommodation	1,395	10.4%
Friends and relatives	7,952	59.4%
Improvised dwellings, s	2,392	17.9%
Total	13,391	100.0%

Source: Counting the Homeless 2006 WA Table 3.3

Age Distribution

Age Group	Number	Percentage
Under 12	1,216	9.1%
12-18	4,280	32.0%
19-24	1,062	7.9%
23-34	1,762	13.2%
35-44	1,504	11.2%
45-54	1,417	10.6%
55-64	1,394	10.4%
65 or older	756	5.6%
Total	13,391	100.0%

Source: Counting the Homeless 2006 WA Table 3.5

Percentage of Males and Females by Age Group

Age Group	Number	Males %	Female %
Under 12	1,216	51	49
12-18	4,280	47	53
19-24	1,062	55	45
23-34	1,762	59	41
35-44	1,504	62	38
45-54	1,417	58	42
55-64	1,394	56	44
65 or older	756	65	35
Total	13,391	54	46

Source: Counting the Homeless 2006 WA Table 3.6

Number of Homeless People and Rate per 10 000 of Population - Perth Statistical Subdivisions

Area	Improvised Dwelling	Friends and Relatives	Boarding Houses	SAAP Accom	Total	Rate per 10 000
Central	270	334	334	430	1,368	109
East	67	562	105	109	843	34
North	262	1,182	40	235	1,719	39
South West	88	861	422	172	1,543	50
South East	80	847	196	124	1,247	38
Perth Totals	767	3,786	1,097	1,070	6,720	47

Number of Homeless People and Rate per 10 000 of Population - Regional and Remote

Area	Improvised Dwelling	Friends and Relatives	Boarding Houses	SAAP Accom	Total	Rate per 10 000
South West	300	696	90	97	1,183	57
Lower Great Southern	69	185	48	38	340	65
Upper Great Southern	6	65	9	-	80	45
Midlands	177	192	42	23	434	86
South Eastern	62	287	93	34	476	92
Central	324	825	95	32	1,276	222
Pilbara	210	673	91	38	1,012	247
Kimberley	477	1,243	87	63	1,870	638
Regional and Remote						
Totals	1,625	4,166	555	325	6,671	131
Totals	2,392	7,952	1,652	1,395	13,391	68.4

Source: Counting the Homeless 2006 WA Appendix 1