

IN 2017 **964** PEOPLE IN WODONGA PRESENTED TO BEYOND HOUSING FOR HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE

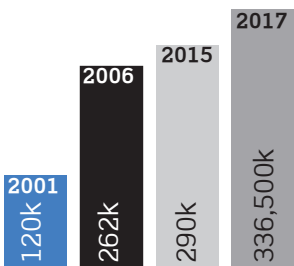
ONE THIRD OF THESE WERE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Homelessness can greatly impact individuals, families and communities. People who are experiencing, or who have experienced homelessness face reduced opportunities for social interaction, education and employment.

“Home is about safety and security, and being involved in the community.” – Homeless person in Wodonga

11% of people in Wodonga re classified as being in housing stress - when housing costs amount to more than 30% of household income.



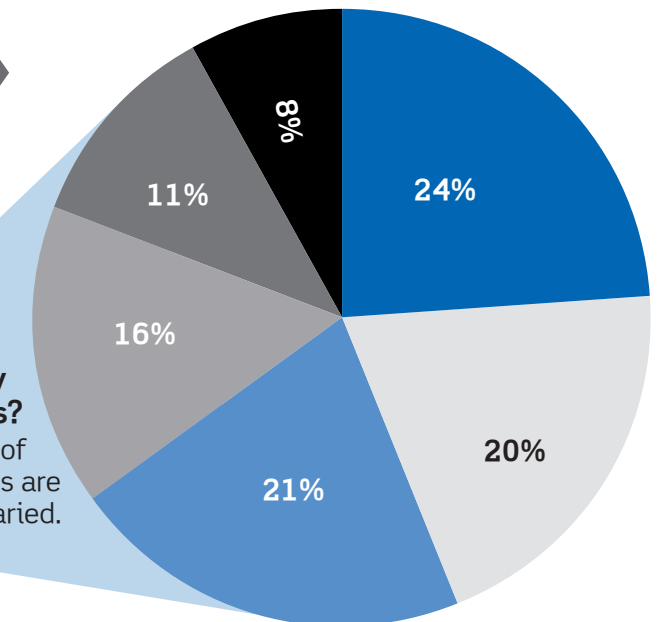
Wodonga's median house prices are **continuing to rise.**

Between 2000 and 2015, the number of two-bedroom flats decreased from 570 to 326, with four-bedroom houses increasing from 109 to 285.



In Wodonga 6.2 per cent of dwellings are social housing, higher than Victoria at 2.8 per cent. Despite this, there are still waiting lists for social housing, which shows that housing stress is a significant issue for the community.

Why are they homeless?
The causes of homelessness are complex and varied.



- 24% Family violence
- 20% Financial difficulties - housing stress and unemployment
- 21% Other- transition from custody agreement, lack of family/community support, accommodation issues
- 16% Housing crisis
- 11% Inappropriate or inadequate dwellings
- 8% Other relationship issues

REFERENCES: ABS, RHNL 2015, Beyond Housing 2017, YES Youth and Family Services 2015 and 2017, RealEstate 2015, Homelessness Australia 2016.

For more information please contact the Community Planning and Wellbeing team on (02) 6022 9300 or go to wodonga.vic.gov.au





Reducing homelessness in Wodonga

WHAT COUNCIL IS DOING

Wodonga Council is committed to playing its role in an effort to reduce the number of people in our community who do not have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.

The council has identified *key objectives* to work toward over the next five years to reduce homelessness in Wodonga:

1. Work with community stakeholders across the housing system to improve pathways into housing;
2. Reduce housing stress by participating in campaigns that increase community awareness of the nature, causes and consequences of homelessness; and,
3. Use council planning, regulatory and policy mechanisms to increase housing diversity and affordability.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN DO

Although the council plays a pivotal role, homelessness is everyone's responsibility.

- **Workplaces** (Does your workplace support staff experiencing housing stress? Is your workplace involved in local campaigns to raise awareness and funds for people experiencing homelessness?)
- **Schools and early learning services** (Does your school have a way to support students that are homeless or at risk of being homeless?)
- **Community organisations** (Does your community organisation raise awareness and funds to support people at risk or experiencing homelessness?)
- **Communities** (Did you know you can donate your unwanted housing goods to people experiencing difficulties? What can you donate? Do you volunteer with emergency relief providers?)

To find out more phone Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9300

OUR ACTIONS

Raising community awareness

Wodonga Council supports campaigns that raise awareness of the nature, causes and consequences of homelessness, including National Homeless Person's week and The Sleepout campaign.

Wodonga Housing Strategy

Wodonga Council is committed to developing a Housing Strategy with the aim of creating more pathways into housing for more people now and into the future as the city grows.

Reducing Social Barriers

Wodonga Council works in partnership with stakeholders to help reduce barriers to people accessing appropriate and affordable housing. This includes the Emergency Relief Providers network and Hume Region Homelessness network.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing difficulty please call:

- The Rural Housing Network Limited (02) 6055 9000
- The Crisis Accommodation information line: 1800 627 727 (Free call) 10am till midnight 7days