

Housing and Homelessness

Everyone needs a place to call home. But for many, this is out of reach.

A growing number of people live in chronic housing stress or severely crowded conditions. Others sleep on the streets, live out of their cars, or rely on temporary arrangements such as caravan parks, boarding houses, or the generosity of friends and family.

Without a secure place to live, every day can be a struggle. It can be hard to put food on the table, find and maintain work, keep up with school, or plan for the future.

At Vinnies we do our best to support those in need, but the lack of access to safe, secure and affordable housing traps people in poverty and unsafe relationships and fractures families and communities.

In the electorate of Cowper:



Approximately
66.5% of renters
are in financial stress.¹



1070 households
are on the general waitlist for social housing, with a further 134 households on the priority list. Approved applicants can expect to wait 5-10 years before a suitable property becomes available.²



Approximately
700 people
are experiencing homelessness.³ Of these, 45 are sleeping rough.⁴

Recommendations:

Housing stress and homelessness are not inevitable. We know what actions are needed to ensure all people can realise their right to a home, but governments must make this a priority. We therefore call on the next Federal Government to:

- develop a National Housing Strategy
- significantly boost the supply of social and affordable housing
- increase rental subsidies for people on low incomes
- build a fairer renting system supported by national minimum standards
- improve the energy efficiency of the homes of people on low incomes.

¹ Everybody's Home (2022) [Financial Stress Map NSW](#), using data collected by Data Finance Analytics.

² Source: NSW FACS (2021) Expected Waiting Times. Available online at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/applying-assistance/expected-waiting-times>. Figures are for the Coffs Harbour/Nambucca Heads/Bellingen & Kempsey allocation zone.

³ ABS (2016) Census of Population and Housing 2016. Data sourced via Everybody's Home <http://everybodyshome.com.au/heat-maps/>

⁴ ABS (2016) Census of Population and Housing 2016. Data sourced via the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/60fb893b3e8e441a8ada02ddef3e0c62>