

Young People and Housing

People require different types of housing at different stages in their lives. With the current high cost of housing in Australia, many young people are moving out of their parent's homes later than in previous generations. For many young people, remaining in their family home is not an option. They may become homeless as children or as young adults. Experiencing homelessness at a young age makes it difficult for young people to continue their education and maintain social bonds with family and friends.

Stats and issues:

- 3,500 people under the age of 25 sought homelessness services in WA in 2008-2009.ⁱ
- Of men under 25 who were alone, 19.2% sought homelessness services due to "relationship/family breakdown". Of women under 25 who were alone, 21.8% cited "relationship/family breakdown" and 21.6% cited "domestic/family violence" as the reason for seeking services.ⁱⁱ
- In 2010, Mission Australia surveyed 4,271 young people in WA aged 11 to 24. The majority (93.3%) of respondents lived with their families. The remainder lived in share housing, boarding schools, juvenile justice centres or prisons, lived with their spouse or partner, or were in foster care or were homeless. Two per cent of those aged 20-24 years were homeless or living in insecure housing.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2006, 23% of young people aged 20-34 lived at home with their parents, compared to 19% in 1986 who lived with their parents.^{iv}
- The main reason people aged 20-24 years did not leave their parents' home was financial (45%). For people aged 25-29, the most common reasons for staying at home were financial (20%) and the convenience and enjoyment of living at home.^v
- The proportion of young adult households (under age 35) who owned their own homes fell from 48% to 44% between 1994-95 and 2003-04.^{vi} This delay is the result of high house prices, and young adults partnering and having children later.

Resources:

- **Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)**
 - P: (08) 9227 5440 or 1800 670 231 (regional areas)
 - W: <http://www.yacwa.org.au>
 - E: yacwa@yacwa.org.au
- **Youth Legal Service**
 - P: (08) 9202 1688
 - W: <http://www.youthlegalserviceinc.com.au/>
- **Kids Helpline**
 - P: 1800 551 800
 - W: <http://www.kidshelp.com.au>
- **YouthLink**
 - P: 1300 362 569
 - YouthLink, Northbridge – (08) 9227 4300
 - YouthReach South – (08) 9499 4274
 - W: <http://www.youthlink.perthwa.net/>
- **YMCA HQ Youth Support Services**
 - P: (08) 9328 3221
 - W: <http://www.hq.org.au/Youth-Support.aspx>
- **ReachOut**, <http://au.reachout.com/> (for young people)
- **Headspace (WA)**
 - P: (08) 9335 6333 or SMS: 0405 533 262
 - W: <http://www.headspace.org.au/fremantle/>
- **WA Government**
 - **Department for Child Protection**
 - Crisis Care (08) 9223 1111 or 1800 199 008 (freecall)
 - W: <http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/>
 - **Department for Communities, Office for Youth**
 - P: (08) 6217 8400 or 1800 281 116 (freecall)
 - W: <http://www.youth.wa.gov.au/>
 - E: youngpeople@communities.wa.gov.au
 - **Commissioner for Young People & Children** <http://www.cyp.wa.gov.au/index.aspx>

ⁱ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2010) *Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2008–09 Western Australia supplementary tables*. Cat. no. HOU 226. Canberra: AIHW.

ⁱⁱ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2010)

ⁱⁱⁱ Mission Australia (2010), *National survey of young Australians*, <http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/downloads/214-national-survey-of-young-australians> [Accessed 1 March 2011]

^{iv} ABS (2009) *Home and away: the living arrangements of young people*, Australian Social Trends 4102.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

^v ABS (2009)

^{vi} ABS (2006) *Housing for young adult households*, Australian Social Trends 4102.0,