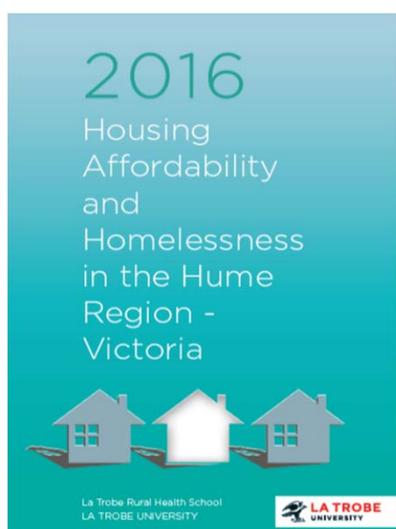


Homelessness in Hume – specific issues

- Lack of crisis accommodation options throughout the region, and particularly outside of Wodonga and Shepparton
- Rise in single person households homeless/at risk and very limited housing options
- Growing demand and diminishing access to transitional and public/social housing (waiting lists increasing; exit options decreasing)
- Increasingly unaffordable/inaccessible private rental market
- Private rental programs (eg STAR, PRAP), while *comparatively* well-resourced, are not reducing overall demand for homelessness and other housing services. Capacity within private rental market likely to worsen over time, reducing the effectiveness of these responses

Homelessness in Hume



Research project completed in partnership with Hume Region Homelessness Network

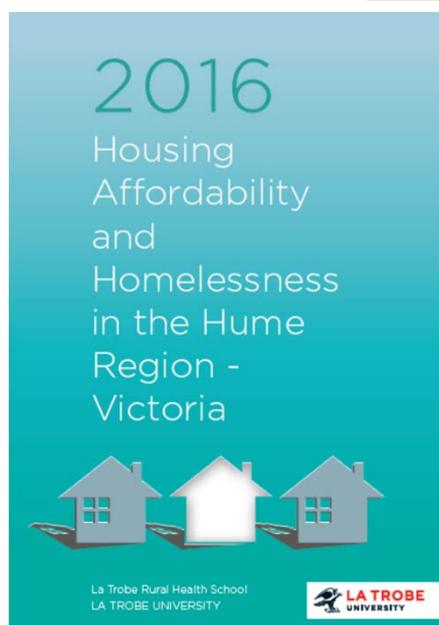
Data Sources:

- Existing housing and homelessness research (eg AHURI)
- Demographic data (incl. ABS) – current population and future projections (up to 2031)
- DHHS data (public and social housing stock, waiting lists, rental affordability index)
- Service delivery data from Specialist Homelessness Services across Hume (SHIP data)

Key findings

Homelessness in Hume region related to broader 'affordable housing crisis':

- Demographic changes (ie population growth, ageing, lone-person and single-parent households)
- Lack of affordable/accessible housing (incl. private rental)
- Reduced access to public and social housing (particularly outside population centres)
- Substantial demand on services – increasing client complexity
- Problematic policy environment



Affordable housing need/demand within Hume

Relative need/demand for affordable housing across the region was identified by combining demographic data (current population and future growth), rental affordability, adjusted rates of homelessness, and access to public/social housing

High need/demand	Moderate need/demand	Lower need/demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wodonga • Shepparton • Mitchell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wangaratta • Benalla • Murrindindi • Mansfield • Indigo • Strathbogie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine • Moira • Towong

latrobe.edu.au

- **Wodonga** and **Shepparton** have established high need that is likely to persist or worsen given population growth projections. Despite having the highest proportions of social housing in Hume, both LGA's experience significant demand for additional housing and high rates of homelessness.
- **Wodonga** also has particular issues with rental affordability which may exacerbate given its moderate population growth.
- While **Shepparton** is growing more slowly and has comparatively more affordable private rental, its population is the most diverse in the region. Sub-population groups have particular housing needs that present additional challenges to homelessness/housing services.
- **Mitchell** has comparatively moderate need currently, but projected high population growth makes it a high priority for further affordable housing development and service delivery.
- **Wangaratta** and **Benalla** experience moderate rates of homelessness, and moderate demand for social housing. Rental affordability is deteriorating in Wangaratta. Future population growth means these issues are likely to continue.



latrobe.edu.au

Responses

- Early intervention and prevention (support to vulnerable families; target schools ie Geelong/Albury/Wodonga projects)
- Expand access to crisis services and provide appropriate options for particular groups/needs (evidence clearly demonstrates additional harm caused by current system)
- Boost support services, particularly more flexible and longer term supports
- Recognise and respond to particular needs of regional/rural communities
- Treat and resource social housing as essential public infrastructure (AHURI, 2019)
- Move away from 'stepping stone' model to 'housing first' model (eg Finland)
- Respond to homelessness/housing needs as a fundamental human rights issue (eg Scotland)
- Pursue evidence-based responses and move away from ideologically influenced responses (eg prioritising private rental)
- Address related policy issues (eg family violence; poverty; unemployment & underemployment; gov. benefit levels etc)

