

# FACS Annual Statistical Report 2017-18: Objective 4: Breaking disadvantage with social housing assistance

This accessible text document provides a high-level view of the contribution of Family and Community Services (FACS) in assisting people to participate in social and economic life in NSW. It accompanies the [interactive dashboard](#), published on the FACS website.

## Overview

Data reported in Objective 4 are grouped into seven main themes each supported by a dashboard:

1. **Pathways to independence** - data reported on households exiting from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties to private rental market or home ownership, young people successfully moving from specialist homelessness services to long term accommodation, and households exiting from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties.
2. **Range of products and services** - data reported on households assisted with private rental assistance products.
3. **Obtaining housing – Applicants** - data reported on social housing applicants on the NSW Housing Register and households assisted with temporary accommodation.
4. **Obtaining housing – Tenants** - data reported on newly housed applicants in social housing who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness, whether or not these tenants were still in social housing after 12 months, and the NSW median wait time for priority approved applicants to be housed in public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties.
5. **Sustainable community housing** - data reported on people and households living in community housing; newly housed applicants in community housing and the percentage of social housing managed by

community housing providers (excluding Indigenous community housing).

6. **Personal responsibility of clients** - data reported on the average rental arrears per tenancy for FACS managed properties and newly housed applicants in public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties.
7. **Making social housing fairer** - data reported on the under-occupancy rate for public housing and data on social housing residential properties.

## 1. Pathways to independence

- In 2017-18, there were 1,103 households exiting from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties to private rental market or private ownership. This is equal to a drop of 114 households or 9.4 per cent from the previous year.
- The median length of tenure for the households exiting from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties to private rental market or private ownership increased from 4.6 years in 2016-17 to 5 years in 2017-18.
- The proportion of the unaccompanied young people aged 15-24 years accessing FACS specialist homelessness services who moved to long term accommodation increased from 31.3 per cent in 2016-17 to 34.7 per cent in 2017-18.
- In 2017-18, 7,235 households exited from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties. This is equal to a drop of 2.8 per cent or 208 households from the previous year.
- In 2017-18, the median length of tenure for the households exiting from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties was 7.2 years, an increase from 6.9 years in 2016-17.

## 2. Range of products and services

- There were 18,501 unique households assisted with private rental assistance products in 2017-18. This is a decrease of 294 households (or 1.6 per cent) compared to 2016-17. Although less households were assisted with private rental assistance, there was an increase in the number of households assisted with Rent Choice products: *Start Safely* increased by 728 (28.9 per cent), compared to 2016-17.

### 3. Obtaining housing - applicants

- As at 30 June 2018, there were 52,932 social housing applicants on the NSW Housing Register. This is equal to a decrease of 5.4 per cent, or 3,017 applicants, from the previous year.
- In 2017-18, 23,654 households were assisted with temporary accommodation. Compared to 24,865 households in 2016-17, this is a drop of 4.9 per cent or 1,211 households.

### 4. Obtaining housing - tenants

- The number of newly housed social housing applicants who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness decreased slightly from 4,291 in 2016-17 to 4,244 in 2017-18. This is equal to a drop of 1.1 per cent or 47 newly housed applicants.
- In 2017-18, of all households in public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness, 92.0 per cent were still housed 12 months after their housing allocation. This was four percentage points more than in 2016-17.
- The NSW median wait time for priority approved applicants housed in public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office properties increased from 3.2 months in 2016-17 to 3.4 months in 2017-18.

### 5. Sustainable community housing

- The number of people living in community housing increased to 55,700 as at 30 June 2018 from 53,800 as at 30 June 2017. This is an increase of 1,900 people or 3.5 per cent.
- As at 30 June 2018, there were 27,419 households living in community housing. Compared to the same time the previous year, there was an increase of 3.6 per cent or 959 households.
- There was an increase of 18.6 per cent in the number of newly housed applicants in community housing from 1,958 households in 2016-17 to 2,323 households in 2017-18.
- In 2017-18, 24 per cent of social housing was managed by community housing providers.

## 6. Personal responsibility of clients

- The average rental arrears per tenancy for public and Aboriginal housing increased from \$25.18 as at 30 June 2017 to \$28.18 as at 30 June 2018. This is an increase of 11.9 per cent.

## 7. Making social housing fairer

- The under-occupancy rate for public housing in 2017-18 was 16.1 per cent, an increase of 0.3 percentage point from the previous year.
- As at 30 June 2018, there were 151,672 social housing residential dwellings. Of these dwellings, 73.4 per cent (or 111,341 dwellings) were public housing; 3.3 per cent (or 4,971 dwellings) were Indigenous community housing; 3.0 per cent (or 4,603 dwellings) were Aboriginal Housing Office dwellings managed by FACS and 20.3 per cent (or 30,757 dwellings) were community housing.
- Of the 151,672 residential dwellings as at 30 June 2018, 38,863 were a studio/one bedroom dwelling; 46,069 had two bedrooms; 53,840 had three bedrooms, and 12,900 contained four or more bedrooms.

## Endnotes

This document presents some key statistics about the NSW overall performance result for this objective in 2017-18. If you are unable to use the interactive dashboards and need more granular information or other statistics, please contact us on [FACSIAR@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FACSIAR@facs.nsw.gov.au).

Every effort has been made to ensure this document meets FACS Website Accessibility Policy. More information on the Policy can be found on the [FACS Website Accessibility Page](#). We continue to improve accessibility to let all users access our information easily.

To view key FACS Performance data, visit the [FACS Statistics Page](#).