

YOUR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRESS CHART



SEPTEMBER 2015

About Your Human Services Progress Chart

Your Human Services Progress Chart provides a wide range of information about the performance of Tasmania's human services system. The quarterly *Progress Chart* helps us evaluate our activities and determine our future directions.

We are currently reviewing the way we report publicly on the performance of our services, including how we can improve on the *Your Human Services Progress Chart* (see explanatory note 1).

Published by the System Purchasing and Performance Group, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania.

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Published on www.dhhs.tas.gov.au

September 2015

ISSN 1823-3015

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How many people have been housed?

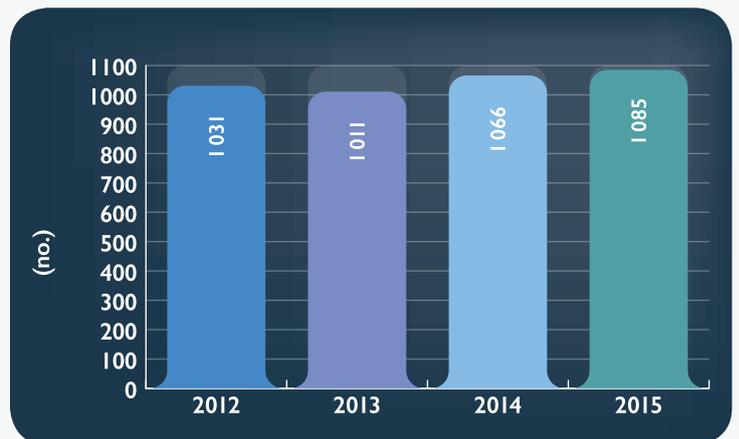
This information shows the number of people who have been allocated housing. This includes people who have been housed by community organisations from the public housing wait list.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015, the number of people housed increased compared to the same period in the previous year.

Both occupancy rates and demand for public housing remain high.

Figure 1: Number of applicants housed

(for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015)



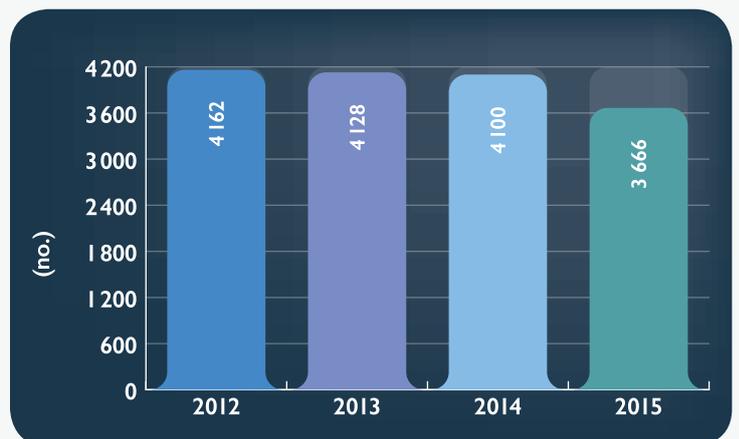
How many households receive Private Rental Assistance?

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015, 3 666 households received financial assistance through Private Rental Assistance, a decrease compared to the previous year.

This reduction may be associated with high occupancy rates in the private rental market and tenants staying longer in their accommodation.

Figure 2: Number of households assisted through Private Rental Assistance

(for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015)



What are the waiting lists for public housing?

This indicator measures the total number of people who were waiting for public housing.

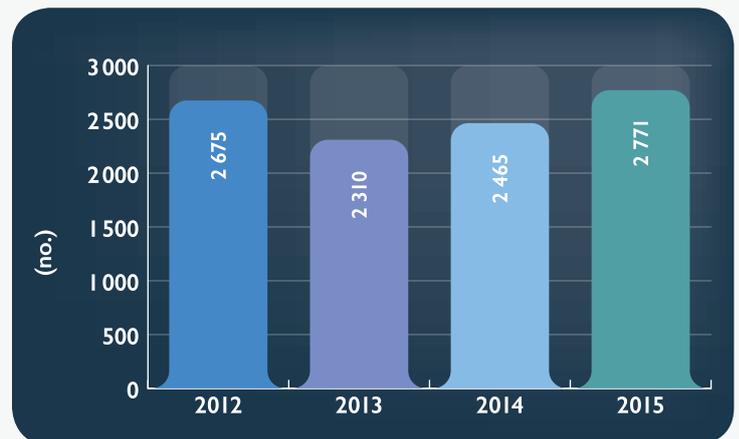
The wait list at 30 June 2015 was 2 771, an increase compared to the previous year, but a decrease of 177 from six months ago.

A contributor to demand is likely to be the success of Housing Connect, which has encouraged more people to seek assistance.

Under Housing Connect a broader common wait list has commenced for both public and community housing with applicants now having a greater range of housing choices.

Figure 3: Number of applicants on wait list

(as at 30 June 2015)



What is the usual wait for people with priority housing needs?

This indicates how many weeks it takes to house applicants who have the highest need, (category 1 or exceptional needs). The assessment of need is based on adequacy, affordability and appropriateness of housing.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015, the average time to house category 1 or exceptional needs applicants was 22 weeks.

The capacity to house priority applicants quickly is contingent upon the availability of homes that meet the applicants' requirements such as their choice of desired location, number of bedrooms and proximity to services.

On 15 June 2015 a new Housing Assessment Prioritisation System (HAPS) was introduced to improve the assessment of people with urgent needs including those who are homeless or have serious health and mobility issues. From this time, people are categorised on the wait list as either having priority or general needs.

Future reporting will identify wait times for Priority applicants based on the HAPS.

Figure 4: Average time to house category 1 applicants

(for the 12 months ending 30 June or as at 14 June 2015)



How many child protection cases are referred for investigation?

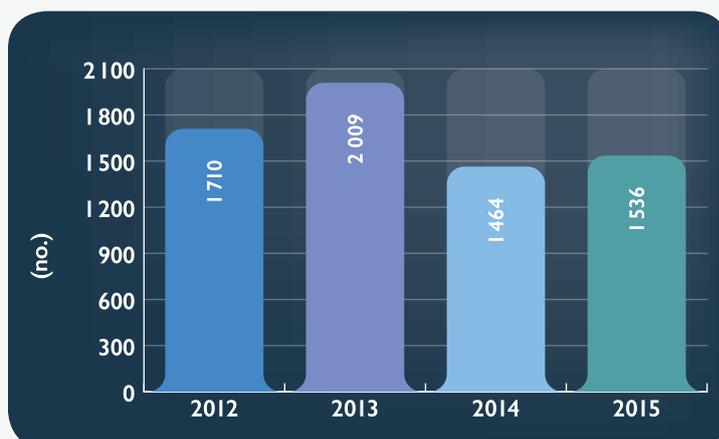
All notifications receive an initial assessment to determine if they meet the threshold for statutory intervention.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015 there were 1 536 notifications that met the threshold for statutory intervention and were referred for investigation. This is an increase compared to the same period in the previous year.

Notifications that, after assessment, do not meet the threshold for statutory intervention are then referred to other services for support and also recorded in the child protection database, as the Department has no statutory mandate to investigate.

Figure 5: Number of notifications referred to service centres for further investigation

(for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015)



How many child protection notifications are at active transition?

Established timeframes for allocation of notifications that meet the threshold for statutory intervention are set according to priority as follows:

- **Priority 1** – half a day.
- **Priority 2** – five days.
- **Priority 3** – ten days.

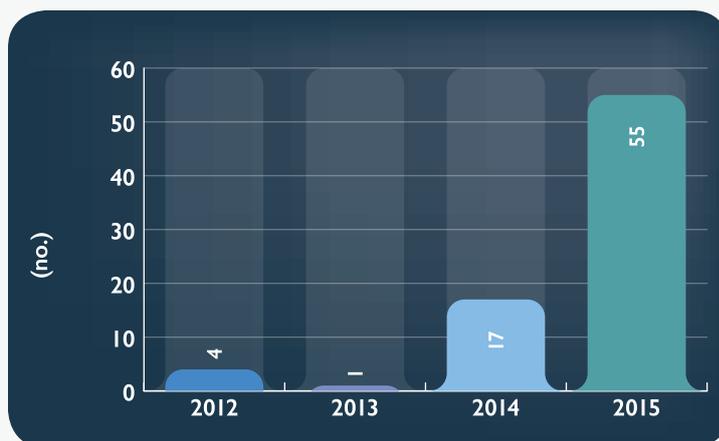
DHHS remains committed to keeping this number low.

These notifications are actively monitored while awaiting assignment to a case worker and can be referred to external support services if appropriate.

The increase in the number of cases in active transition for the quarter ending 30 June 2015 is due to a range of factors, including the need for more short-term legal orders, arising from an increase in complex family situations. The seeking of orders by Response Units for complex cases is important but also time-consuming and labour intensive. DHHS is working to respond to these issues.

It is also worth noting that the figures represent data at a point in time and such figures can change from one day to the next. (Also refer explanatory note 2).

Figure 6: Number of notifications at active transition
(as at 30 June 2015)



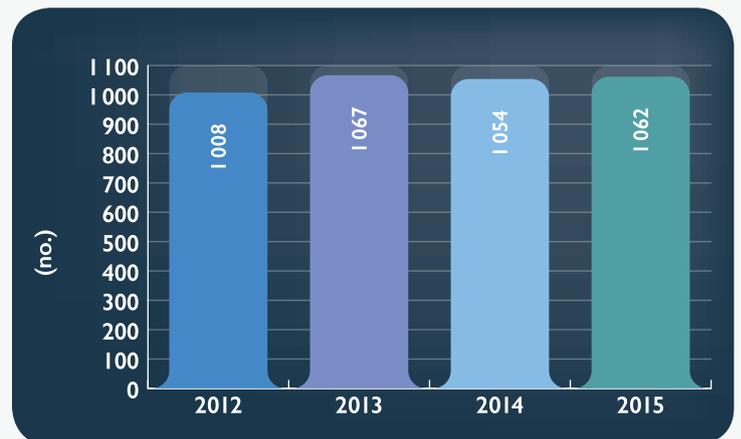
How many children are in Out-of-Home Care?

As at 30 June 2015 there were 1 062 children in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC), which represents a small increase compared to the same time in the previous year. Since 2005, the overall trend has been for an increase in the number of children in care in all states and territories.

DHHS continues to develop appropriate family and specialist support services to prevent the need for a child to come in to care, or to enable parents to be reunified with their children as soon as it is safe to do so. This includes helping parents to resolve safety issues.

The OOHC system is being reformed so that the right services are provided for children and families when they need them.

Figure 7: Children in Out-of-Home Care
(as at 30 June 2015)



What are the waiting lists for people requiring supported accommodation?

This indicator shows the number of people living with disability urgently waiting for a supported accommodation placement. Supported accommodation services provide assistance for people living with disability within a range of accommodation options, including group homes and other supported accommodation settings.

In addition to providing support for daily living these services promote access, participation and integration into the local community. Supported accommodation is provided by community-based organisations that are funded by the State Government.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015 compared to the same period in the previous year, there has been a 16.2 per cent decrease in the number of people with a disability who are urgently waiting for a supported accommodation placement.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is being trialled in Tasmania for eligible young people aged 15 to 24 years from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

It is estimated that 1 000 young people will be eligible to benefit from the NDIS in the trial. The introduction of the NDIS may explain the recent decrease in waiting lists.

Figure 8: Disability services – supported accommodation – waiting list

(as at 30 June 2015)



What is the waiting list for community access clients?

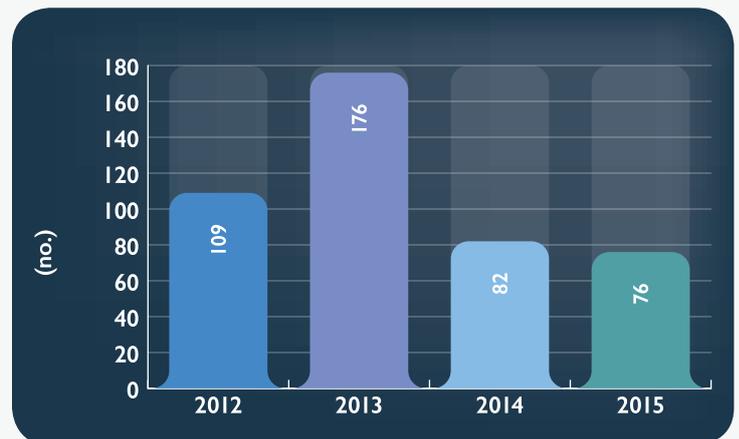
This shows the number of people with disability who are waiting for a full-time or part-time community access placement. Community access services provide activities that promote learning and skill development and enable access, participation and integration in the local community. Community access services can also provide an important respite effect for carers of people with disability.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2015 compared to the same period in the previous year, there has been a 7.3 per cent decrease in the number of people with a disability who are waiting for a full-time or part-time community access placement. This includes people who already have a placement and are seeking additional days.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is being trialled in Tasmania for eligible young people aged 15 to 24 years from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

It is estimated that around 1000 young people are eligible to benefit from the NDIS in the trial.

Figure 9: Community access clients – waiting list
(as at 30 June 2015)



Explanatory notes

- 1** Due to more accurate data becoming available, data reported from previous *Progress Charts* may differ.
- 2** Figures for previous years have been updated to address a data quality issue and to more accurately reflect the actual number of unallocated cases.



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