



Country profile

Australia

The housing need in Australia

Australia has a deficit of more than 600,000 social and affordable homes. The shortfall is projected to be in excess of 1 million by 2036. Over 1.5 million Australians are living in housing stress, due to the rising rates in the private rental market and the extreme lack of affordable housing. According to national statistical data in 2016, there are 116,427 Australians living with homelessness, an increase of 13.7% in the past five years. The lack of affordable housing is a key contributor to this figure. The cost of land, materials and construction has continued to rise, especially in the capital cities and major regional centers. A 2019 report by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute said the government needed to build at least 200,000 additional homes over the next 10 years to meet the needs of very low-income households.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Australia in 1998.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 530**
 - Through new construction – 85
 - Through repairs – 445
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 2,435**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Canberra
Population – Over 25.7 million
Life expectancy – 82.5 years
Unemployment rate – 5.2%

How Habitat addresses the need

New home construction

To date, Habitat for Humanity Australia and the low-income families we partner with have together built over 220 homes. This is made possible through the donation of money, construction materials and land, and the contribution of volunteer labor. Future homeowners contribute 500 hours of their own time in the planning and construction phases. This is called 'sweat equity' and is recognized in the 5% discount on market value that is returned to them. Families partner with Habitat in the construction of their homes, building an average of 10 homes a year in Australia.

Brush with Kindness

Habitat Australia runs Brush with Kindness activities across New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria states. The volunteer-based program addresses the shelter needs of vulnerable groups including young people recovering from drugs and alcohol abuse, women escaping domestic violence, and newly arrived refugees. It also serves as a vehicle for engaging corporate volunteer teams in a "backyard blitz" style activity. Habitat currently mobilizes about 400 volunteers per year through the Brush with Kindness program.

Developing holistic communities

Habitat Australia's international program is designed to address multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and recognizes the key role adequate housing plays in sustainable development. The program is targeted at both the community and sectoral levels and works to address needs at multiple stages on the housing value chain. It includes projects focused on water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction, urban development, market development and land tenure. Together with its partners, Habitat Australia supports projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam.

What you can do

DONATE

In Australia: [habitat.org.au/how-you-can-help/donate](https://www.habitat.org.au/how-you-can-help/donate)

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to one of the Habitat projects around the world or lead your own. For more information, please contact global.village@habitat.org.au

CONTACT

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