



Country profile Australia

The housing need in Australia

Australia has a deficit of more than 600,000 homes and that shortfall is projected to be in excess of 1 million by 2036. According to national statistical data in 2021, [122,494 people](#) were experiencing homelessness, an increase of 6,067 people or 5.2% since 2016. The cost of land, materials and construction has continued to rise, especially in the capital cities and major regional centers. About 1.5 million renters are living in poverty due to significant increases in private rental costs, based on a [2022 report](#) by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre. In late 2022, the government unveiled a National Housing Accord that aims to build 1 million homes in five years. However, a key industry body has forecast [a shortfall in 200,000 new homes](#) that are required annually to meet that target.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Australia in 1998.
- **Individuals served in FY2022 – 750**
 - Through new construction – 20
 - Through repairs – 730
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2022 – 3,709**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Canberra
Population – Over 26.1 million
Life expectancy – 83.7 years
Unemployment rate – 3.7%

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, United Nations, World Bank

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. We have also begun the construction of domestic violence shelters to increase impact in Australia.

Volunteer-based programs

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. New programs include Bushfire Resilience Program where volunteers can support families in Australia who are risk of losing their properties to future disasters. With the resumption of Habitat’s Global Village program in Asia-Pacific, Australian volunteers will be building homes with families in Cambodia and Vietnam.

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: <https://habitat.org.au/donate>

VOLUNTEER

The Global Village program has resumed in select locations in Asia-Pacific. Please go to <https://helpinghands.online/global-village/> for upcoming builds or visit habitat.org/gv for more updates.

CONTACT

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