Connect WANNEROO

Wellbeing
Homelessness accommodation and support services

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The City of Wanneroo is one of Western Australia's largest growing local governments, with a population of over 250,000 projected to reach 438,190 by 2046.

In 2023/24 the City received 246 homelessness reports involving about 157 cases, rising by approximately 89% in 2024/25 and significantly outpacing population growth. This trend continued in 2025/26 with reports increasing by a further 28% to 595 reports.

In 2025/26, around one third of cases involved people sleeping in their vehicles. The City continues to receive reports of people sleeping in public spaces, presenting with complex needs showing homelessness is becoming persistent issue in the community, placing growing demand on local services and support systems.

There are currently no crisis or short to medium-term accommodation facilities in the City of Wanneroo for adults over 25 experiencing homelessness.

The cost of inaction is significant. Beyond the human impacts, Shelter WA reports average service use costs for justice, health, housing, child protection and welfare for people experiencing homelessness were three to four times higher than those who weren't[1].

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE?

The City has seen an increase in reports and known cases of people sleeping rough in the community, along with high rates of housing stress.

The current cost of living and housing crisis is exacerbating hardship for many, likely leading to increased homelessness in the region.

Service providers report high demand for services, with challenges finding accommodation and accessing wrap-around support services for clients. Many providers are at capacity, unable to take referrals.

Assertive outreach providers are also at capacity.

The lack of accessible local homelessness services and accommodation in the City limits access to immediate shelter and appropriate supports for people experiencing homelessness.

[1] Shelter WA Key Statistics, April 2026. Page 11

WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED?

The City of Wanneroo's community needs place-based support and accommodation services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, including:

- Crisis and short-medium term supported accommodation.
- A fully funded, ongoing assertive outreach service that meets demand.
- Integrated, place-based and culturally appropriate wrap-around support services.

HOW CAN WE MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN?

The City's role is to develop an informed understanding of local homelessness needs, enabling effective advocacy for targeted services and partnerships with homelessness support agencies.

The City of Wanneroo asks the State and/or Federal Government to:

- Establish a fully funded, ongoing assertive outreach service that addresses demand.
- Establish, operate and maintain crisis and short-medium term supported accommodation for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Establish and maintain place-based, culturally appropriate wrap-around support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

For more information, visit
wanneroo.wa.gov.au/advocacy



City of Wanneroo

Version 5 - November 2026