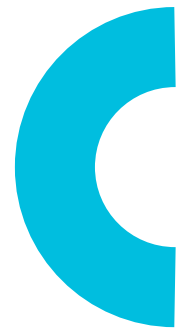


# 2024 Parramatta Homelessness Street Count Results



## Overview

City of Parramatta Council conducts Homelessness Street Count in February every year to monitor the homelessness situation within the LGA. The results help advise Council on plans and responses to reduce homelessness. Information collected includes the counting of people sleeping rough (primary) and the record of people sleeping in crisis and temporary accommodation provided by local homelessness services (secondary).

The 14th annual Parramatta Homelessness Street Count was conducted on the night of Monday 19 February into the early hours of Tuesday 20 February 2024. Staff from City of Parramatta, Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ), and local homelessness services, counted people sleeping rough throughout the Parramatta CBD and the CBD fringes and suburb hotspots (including Rosehill, Rydalmere, Epping, Toongabbie, Winston Hills, Toongabbie, Constitution Hill, Westmead) by car and foot.

Street Count identified 26 people experiencing primary homelessness (people sleeping rough) within the count area, compared to 30 in 2023. On the same night, secondary homelessness (people sleeping in crisis and temporary accommodation) totalled 265 people, compared to 174 in 2023. The total number of people identified by the Parramatta Homelessness Street Count in 2024 was 291, which is significantly higher than recent years and the highest total recorded since 2012.

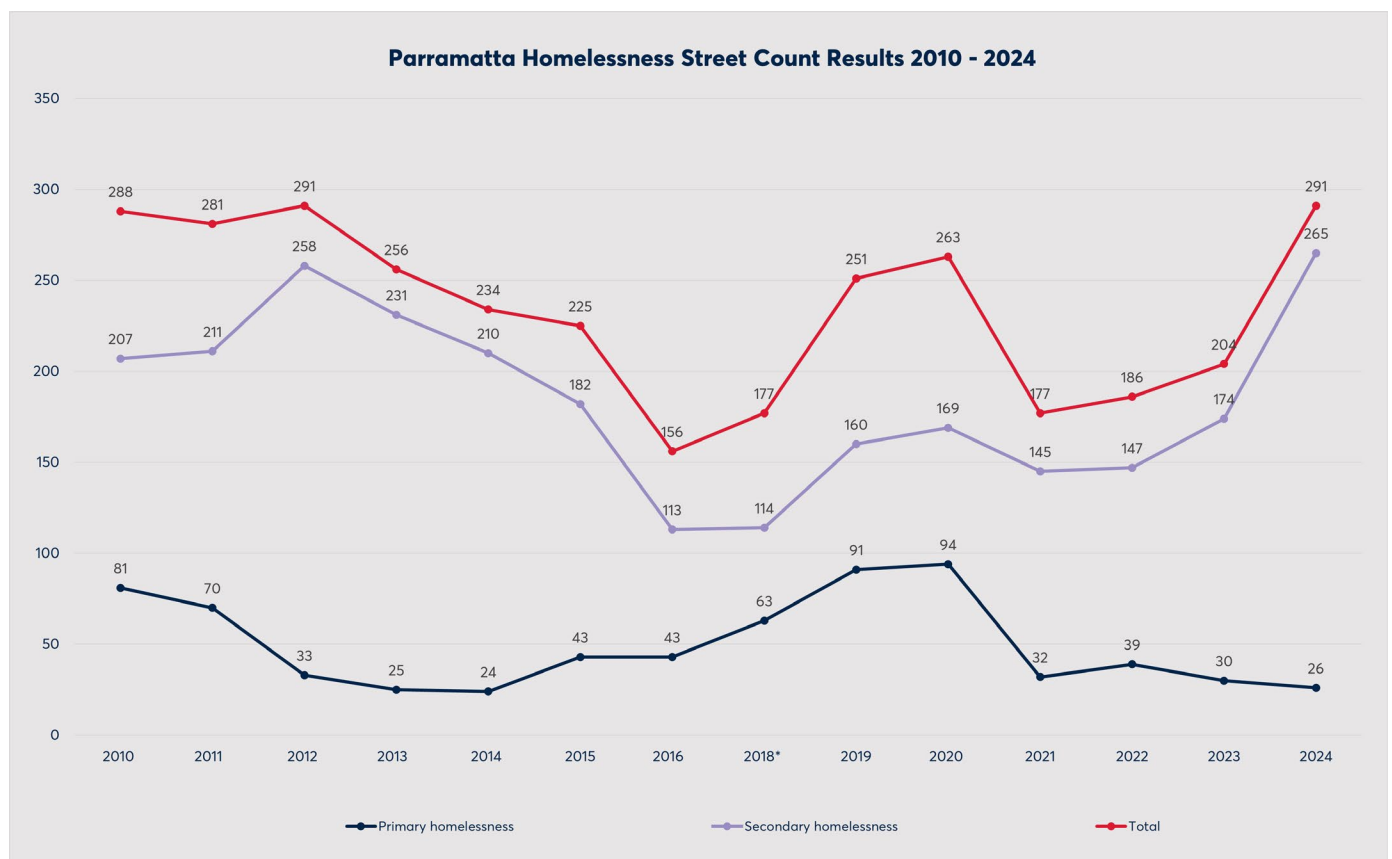


Figure 1. Parramatta Homelessness Street Count results, 2010-2024

\*Homelessness Street Count was not undertaken in 2017\*\* Council amalgamations occurred in May 2016 and as result Council boundaries changed. Granville Town Centre is no longer within City of Parramatta LGA. The 2018 Homeless Street Count does not include parts of Granville located in Cumberland Council. These were areas previously identified with numbers of persons experiencing homelessness.

## Observations

The number of people sleeping rough in City of Parramatta has remained relatively stable since 2021. This could be attributed to a variety of factors such as improved effectiveness of local response to people at risk of experiencing homelessness, including through:

- Introduction of investment in social and affordable rental housing from the Federal Government in July 2023.
- NSW State Government policy change in July 2023 leading to better access to temporary accommodation.
- More effective collaboration between service providers, state government departments, and local governments.

As advised by local homelessness services, there is a small but significant number of people sleeping rough who are temporary visa holders or whose visas have expired. A number of them were counted on the Street Count night. This could be attributed to a lack of access to housing support services.

Whilst the number of people sleeping rough has remained relatively stable, there has been an 80% increase in the number of people sleeping in temporary and crisis accommodation since 2022. One additional accommodation provider has been added to the secondary count this year. However, this provider reported five people experiencing secondary homelessness, which does not account for the significant overall increase.

The increase in number of people experiencing secondary homelessness could be attributed to a variety of factors, including a combination of housing, cost of living, and systemic pressures, such as:

- More people at risk of homelessness have been approached for temporary accommodation, transitional housing, and other housing types that support people out of primary homelessness to avoid primary homelessness all together.
- NSW State Government policy change in July 2023 has increased access to temporary accommodation, including through:
  - Extending the initial access period to temporary accommodation from 2 days to 7 days.
  - Revising eligibility requirements for people requesting temporary accommodation raising the asset cap to \$5000 instead of \$1000, and removing this requirement altogether for those fleeing domestic or family violence.
  - Removing the requirement for people in temporary accommodation to complete a Rental Diary to demonstrate they are actively looking for housing.
- Less people are coming out of temporary accommodation, transitional housing, and other housing types that support people out of primary homelessness.
- People experiencing secondary homelessness are not able to sustain private rental tenancies, which is exacerbated by increasing cost of living pressures.
- People experiencing secondary homelessness are not able to obtain social housing due to longstanding wait times, exacerbated by a lack of suitable affordable housing options.

City of Parramatta continues to work in partnership to advocate for and support the local homelessness sector and to improve the wellbeing of all our residents. For further information please contact:

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