

Cost of Living 2023 - Snapshot

Model Households

Our modelling of the income and expenditure of five different household 'types' reveals the pressures in covering basic living costs, such as housing, utilities, food and transport. It does not include the unexpected and unbudgeted costs that are part of everyday life.



The weekly income of the model unemployed single is inadequate to meet their basic living costs, with a gap of \$29.49 between the income support they receive and a basic standard of living.



The single parent family model has just \$1.40 left after meeting their estimated basic living costs.



The income of the two parent family model surpasses their estimated basic living costs by \$48.54 per week.



While the home-owning age pensioner have \$120.45 after meeting their basic living costs, their renting equivalents fall \$25.08 short.



Financial Counselling Data

The 2023 data supplied by the Financial Counselling Network provides an insight into the real-life living cost pressures being faced by households who are experiencing financial hardship.

Financial counselling clients in each metropolitan region of Perth are on average in housing stress, with those in the East metropolitan region dedicating the greatest proportion of their income to their housing costs.

In the East metro region, the average proportion of income needed to cover debt repayments exceeds even what is needed to maintain access to housing, making clear the stark reality of debts in the community.

Weekly income and expenditure of model households

	Income	Expenditure	Net Position
Single Parent Family	\$1,134.28 ▲	\$1,132.88 ▲	\$1.40 ▼
Two Parent Family	\$1,596.81 ▲	\$1,548.27 ▲	\$48.54 ▼
Unemployed Single	\$372.28 ▲	\$401.77 ▲	-\$29.49 ▼
Age Pensioners (Renters)	\$849.39 ▲	\$874.47 ▲	-\$25.08 ▼
Age Pensioners (Home Owners)	\$778.87 ▲	\$657.42 ▲	\$120.45 ▲

Financial Counselling Data - Average financial position per fortnight

Regions	Household Income (After Tax)	Housing Costs	Cost of Groceries	Cost of Essential Utilities	Medical Costs	Debt Repayments	Deficit *	No of Clients
North Metro	\$2,165.76	\$873.13	\$381.51	\$124.54	\$48.16	\$380.54	-\$152.16	621
East Metro	\$2,011.20	\$854.06	\$370.04	\$146.47	\$56.22	\$1,015.29	-\$53.23	587
South Metro	\$1,952.24	\$746.04	\$344.15	\$123.19	\$65.09	\$363.88	\$2.25	416
Overall	\$2,056.68	\$795.38	\$368.21	\$132.07	\$55.39	\$623.59	-\$74.03	1,982