

Temporary Visa Holders Survey
May 2020



SSI Temporary Visa Holder Survey

Report on Findings 18 May 2020



Summary

Measures of hardship (N=461)	% of SSI respondents	% BNLA Wave 1 (2013)	% HILDA Wave 12 (2012)
Go without meals because didn't have enough money	62	9	3
Could not pay the rent or a mortgage on time	75	13	6
Unable to heat (or cool) where you live	46	24	3
Sought emergency assistance from a welfare or community organisation	29	15	3
Had to borrow money from friends and family to pay for essential item*	79	7	4

*In HILDA and BNLA this is asked as "Pawned or sold something because needed cash"

Measures of hardship (N=461)	% of SSI respondents
Lost job or had work hours reduced	82
Could not buy medicines that you normally take	52
Could not access health services that you needed	50

Sample

SSI did a quick pulse survey of people with temporary humanitarian or bridging visas that are in contact with SSI's programs and received 461 eligible responses. The survey was conducted from 14 to 18 May and used indicators of hardship that are used in other surveys of the Australian population to allow for quick comparison. The *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey* is a major longitudinal survey that has been conducted since 2001 of Australian households. The *Building a New Life in Australia (BNLA)* is a longitudinal survey of humanitarian entrants with permanent residency that commenced in 2013. A small proportion of respondents (4%) were not temporary residents and were excluded from the analysis. Some respondents did not provide answers to all questions.

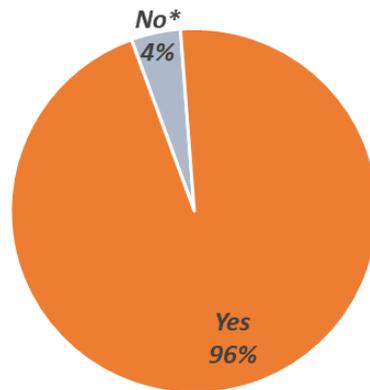
Almost two-thirds of the respondents (60%) to the SSI survey had been resident in NSW for 2 years or more and a further one-fifth (20%) had been resident for 1-2 years.

Implications

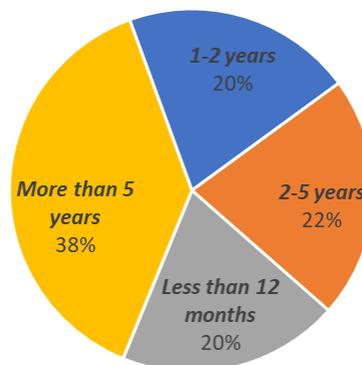
Not all types of financial hardship are equal. Not having enough money for food indicates severe financial hardship and not being able to pay rent points to a high risk of homelessness. We also need to combine the measures of hardship found here to understand the multiple financial stressors occurring at the same time. As temporary residents, none of these survey respondents are eligible for income support of emergency relief during this health crisis.

Findings

Temporary visa holder (i.e. not having permanent residency) sliving in New South Wales (N=482)



Length of time lived in NSW (N=371)



**These respondents were excluded from the analysis*

Respondents experiencing multiple types of financial hardship

In the past 8 weeks	Percentage of No Unsure Yes								
Lost your job or had your work hours reduced	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>82</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	11	Unsure	7	Yes	82
Response	Percentage								
No	11								
Unsure	7								
Yes	82								
Sought emergency assistance from a welfare or community organisation	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	64	Unsure	7	Yes	29
Response	Percentage								
No	64								
Unsure	7								
Yes	29								
Unable to heat (or cool) where you live	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>46</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	34	Unsure	20	Yes	46
Response	Percentage								
No	34								
Unsure	20								
Yes	46								
Go without meals because you didn't have enough money	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>62</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	32	Unsure	6	Yes	62
Response	Percentage								
No	32								
Unsure	6								
Yes	62								
Could not pay the rent or a mortgage on time	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>76</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	20	Unsure	4	Yes	76
Response	Percentage								
No	20								
Unsure	4								
Yes	76								
Could not buy medicines that you normally take	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>52</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	39	Unsure	9	Yes	52
Response	Percentage								
No	39								
Unsure	9								
Yes	52								
Could not access health services that you needed	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>20</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	41	Unsure	9	Yes	20
Response	Percentage								
No	41								
Unsure	9								
Yes	20								
Had to borrow money from friends and family to pay for essential items	 <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Unsure</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>79</td></tr> </table>	Response	Percentage	No	19	Unsure	2	Yes	79
Response	Percentage								
No	19								
Unsure	2								
Yes	79								