

**Equity, affordability and
the energy transition:**
Energy price impacts on
disadvantaged Queenslanders



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Sun Powered Queensland Summit
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Context

- Energy as an essential service
- Sustained price increases over many years
- Price volatility and bill shock
- New products and services – but increasing disparity in access for different households
- Complexity is making it harder for some to engage

Inequitable distribution of energy costs and benefits across the community has wider social and economic implications

Household expenditure

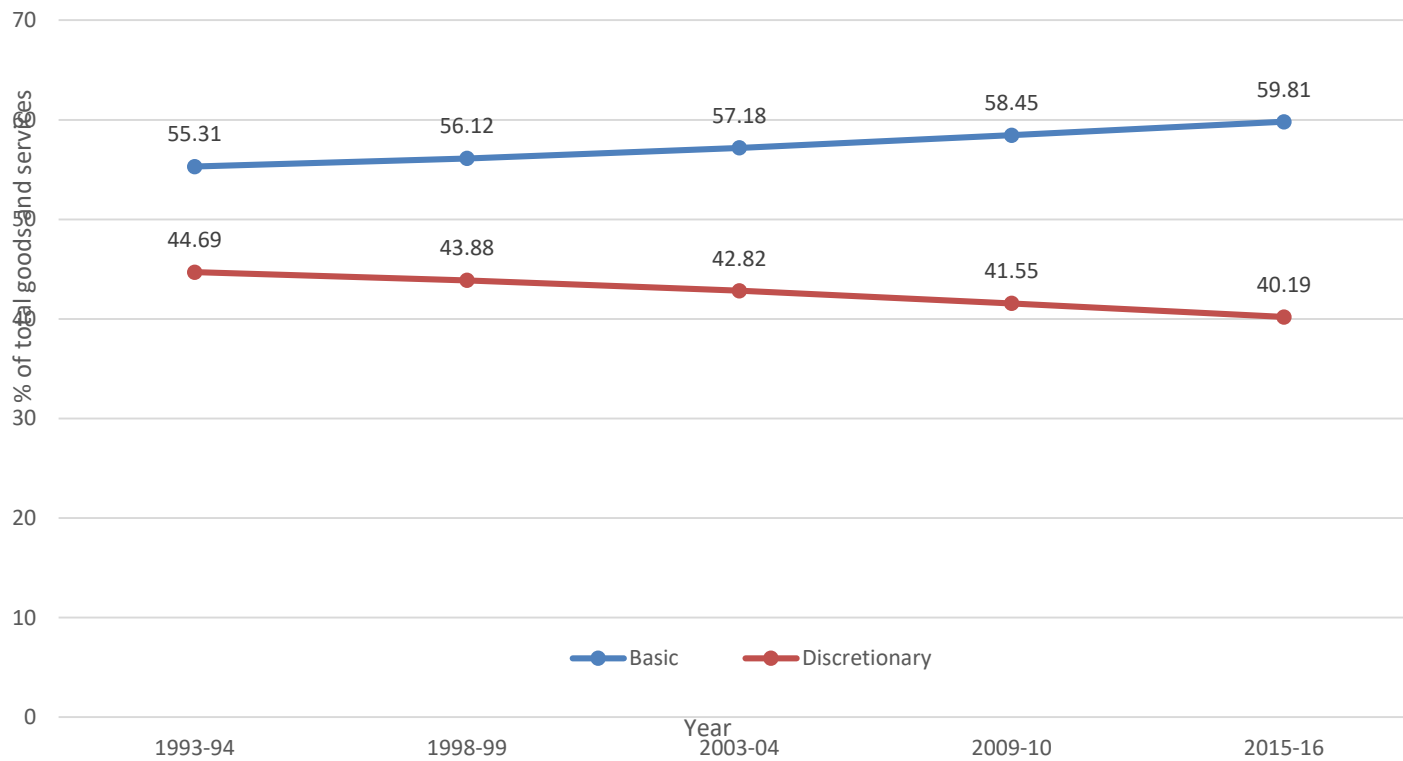


Figure: Proportion of weekly expenditure on basic and discretionary household expenditure, Queensland, 1993-94 to 2015-16

Household expenditure

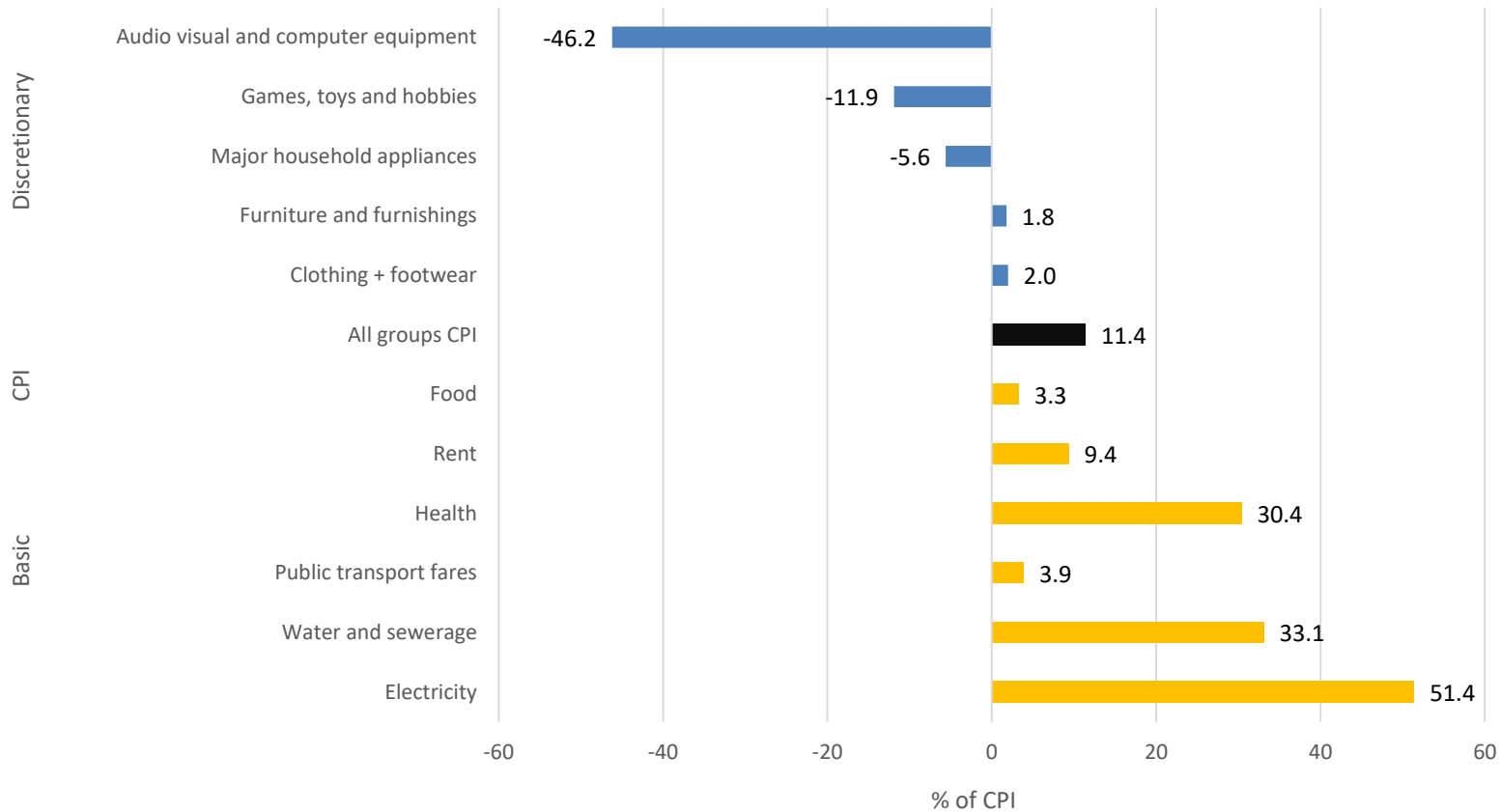


Figure: Change in the costs of basics and discretionary goods and services from June 2011 to June 2017, Brisbane

Impacts

Disconnection

- Around 25,000 Queensland households disconnected for non-payment this year.

Hardship and payment plans

- The number of Queenslanders on a hardship program has doubled since 2012.

High debt levels

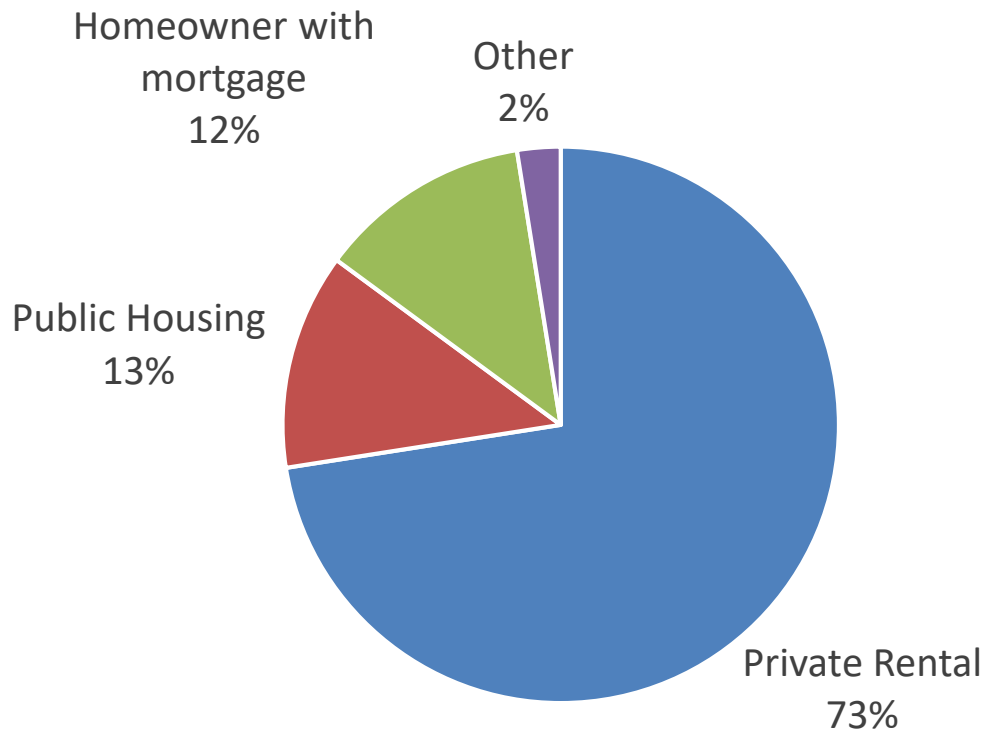
- Around 40,000 households have debt with their energy retailer.

Lack of ability to take control

- Households who rent or experience disadvantage face barriers to control.

Relationship between energy and housing tenure

Housing tenure of HEEAS recipients, 2014-15



Exclusion from products and services

