



good works

CONTENTS

About this booklet5	Fundraising form32
Homelessness, more than without a roof 6	Post sleepout feedback form33
How you can get involved8	Taking a stand against homelessness 34
Ways you can make an impact9	Homelessness in Australia35
Hosting a Vinnies School Sleepout	Who experiences homelessness36
Activity ideas17	Types of homelessness37
Reflection activities21	Why people experience homelessness 39
Terms and conditions27	Breaking stereotypes41
Electronic printable poster28	How the Society helps homelessness 42
Count me in registration form29	Who is affected by homelessness fact sheets 44
Sample permission form30	References50
Event check list	Contact us51

The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this 'Country' (land) and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to the Elders of all cultures both past and present.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society, first established in 1833 in the city of Paris, is an international lay Catholic organisation operating in 149 countries. Over the 185-year history, the St Vincent de Paul Society has grown from its initial seven members to over 950,000 members worldwide. There are thousands of people who every day share their time, care for humanity and energy to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged people all around Australia.

VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering a "hand up" to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

MISSION

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to *live the gospel message by serving*Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

CORE VALUES

These are the values of the Society in Australia.

COMMITMENT - Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.

COMPASSION - Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgment.

RESPECT - Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinion.

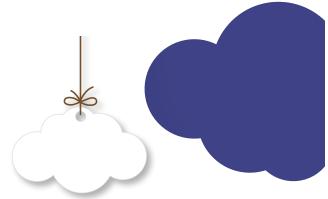
INTEGRITY - Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values.



EMPATHY - Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.

ADVOCACY - Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.

COURAGE - Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.



THE PROBLEM WHICH DIVIDES PEOPLE TODAY IS NOT A POLITICAL PROBLEM, IT IS A SOCIAL ONE. **

BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM









ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

The purpose of this booklet is to bring about awareness to a hidden and costly epidemic that is occurring across Australia. Homelessness is one of the leading social issues facing Australians each day.

On average over 116,400¹ people experience some form of homelessness every single day, with over 1.4 million Australians having experienced homelessness within the past 10 years.²

This is a staggering number that continues to rise due to the increasing cost of living, the struggle to find affordable housing, the increase in mental health issues and more significantly, the impact of domestic and family violence facing our communities.

To help local school communities engage with and raise awareness of homelessness, the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland encourages schools to participate in the *Vinnies School Sleepout Initiative*.

This booklet will provide you with the necessary information for your school to host its own Sleepout, and raise awareness about the issues of homelessness within Australia and throughout Queensland.

The Vinnies School Sleepout Initiative runs in conjunction with the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal. Schools are encouraged to participate by hosting a School Sleepout event or collecting goods and raising funds during the winter months.



HOMELESSNESS, MORE THAN WITHOUT A ROOF

Homelessness is not necessarily being without a roof; it is a 'lack of one or more of the elements that represents home'.³
As such, a person can experience homelessness even if they have a house or 'roof' over their head because they do not have a 'sense of security, stability, privacy, safety and the ability to control living

space.'

For people experiencing homelessness the issues are complex, and is more than being without somewhere comfortable to sleep. Homelessness affects an individual's ability to meet their most basic needs, which impacts them psychologically, emotionally, physically, financially and socially.

Homes are essential for the development and dignity of individuals.

Homelessness is also a human rights issue. It is understood that without adequate housing or a home, an individual's ability to access other basic rights, such as the right to family life and privacy, the right to freedom of movement, the right to health and the right to education, is compromised.

This is particularly true for children and young people. Without suitable, stable and secure homes, children and young people 'are unlikely to realise their right to grow and develop in an atmosphere of moral and material security, free from abuse and neglect.'5



PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE NOT MERELY OBJECTS OF CHARITY, SEEKING HELP AND COMPASSION. LIKE ALL AUSTRALIANS, THEY ARE INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

School communities are invited to join the St Vincent de Paul Society QLD to offer a hand up this winter. Your school's involvement in the School Sleepout Initiative is a fun and interactive way to raise awareness about the issues and effects of homelessness. By taking part in the School Sleepout Initiative, you are taking action against the homelessness crisis Australia is facing. This is a great opportunity for students to engage in advocating for change, whilst making a difference to the lives of people in their local community.

For your school, this will:

- Encourage students to connect with an evident and increasing need in your local community.
- Challenge your school community to make a difference to those living rough within your local area.
- Raise awareness about the many faces of homelessness in the hopes of breaking stereotypes.
- Allow your school community to be a voice for those in need in your community.
- Further educate your community.
- Connect your school with preexisting homeless services within your community, such as homeless vans or social justice groups.
- Advocate and raise funds to show your school that you can make a difference this winter

CURRICULUM LINKS ACHASSI081 ACHASSI102 ACHASSI104 ACHASSK118 ACHASSK118 ACHASSI130 ACHASSI130 ACHASSI132 ACHCK052 ACHCK079 ACHCK080 ACHGK081



WAYS YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

RAISING AWARENESS

Raising awareness is the first step to making a difference. When we are aware of the issues and who they are affecting, we can then begin to bring about change. The process of raising awareness involves challenging commonly held stereotypes that are often fixed and oversimplified images, that don't accurately reflect the realities of the issue.

The School Sleepout Initiative helps to raise awareness of this pressing social issue and gives people an understanding of the realities of homelessness.

Over the past five years, there has been a 30% increase in the number of families with children being assisted by homeless services, such as Vinnies.

WHEN WE
UNDERSTAND THE
ISSUE, WE CAN
THEN BEGIN TO BE
ADVOCATES FOR
CHANGE.

FUNDRAISING

Many people who require access to support services do so through various organisations, many of which are charities and not for profit organisations, who rely on the support and generosity of the public.

The St Vincent de Paul Society first began helping Australians in 1854, and we've been active in the community ever since.

Our work relies on donations from the public.
The School Sleepout Initiative and Winter
Appeal play a substantial role in contributing
to these donations. Money raised goes
towards supporting people experiencing
hardships in your local community.

HOW YOUR FUNDS CAN HELP

- \$25 can provide someone with a month's supply of personal hygiene and toiletries products.
- \$40 can assist in covering the gap to pay a utilities bill.
- \$50 can provide a set of clothes to a young person experiencing homelessness.
- \$120 can assist a family of four with emergency food until their next payment.
- \$210 can provide a person with a bed and meals for one week.



WAYS YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT



VOLUNTEERING

Organisations like Vinnies rely on the ongoing support and commitment of individuals to give generously of their time and talents.

Without this generosity we would not be able to do good works throughout local communities across Queensland and Australia.

There are many opportunities for young people who are passionate about supporting their local community to get involved in the good works of the Society. By volunteering your time and skills, you can help to support local children in your area to hope for a better future, by offering them a *Hand Up*.

To discuss the different opportunities available for students 16 years and over, contact your local Vinnies Youth Engagement Officer.

DONATIONS

Goods in kind, like funds, play a vital role in being able to provide assistance to people in need of support. In particular, for people experiencing homelessness during the winter months there is often a need for blankets, warm clothing, jackets, enclosed shoes and non-perishable food.

HOW YOUR DONATIONS CAN HELP



Simply donating any spare clothing or shoes that are in good condition could provide a young person with dignity and warmth.



Hosting a blanket or canned food drive could assist a local family with the extra supplies they might need.



Donating unwanted household items in good working order can assist a newly housed family to land on their feet.



Collecting hygiene and toiletries products can help to affirm the dignity of those who might be sleeping rough.

WE CANNOT SEE INJUSTICE AND LET IT GO UNCHANGED.



VINNIES SCHOOL SLEEPOUT

Hosting your own school Sleepout is a simple, fun and effective way for students to engage in raising awareness about homelessness. It also gives students the opportunity to experience what it might be like for someone sleeping rough.

HOW TO ORGANISE A SCHOOL SLEEPOUT

School Sleepouts can start and finish at whatever time fits best with the school calendar. There is no minimum requirement for how many students, or how many hours the event must run for. However, at least one school staff member or designated adult must be present during your School Sleepout event. Your local Vinnies Youth team is happy to work with any school community to assist with planning your event.

VINNIES SLEEPOUT ease

HOSTING A SLEEPOUT



1

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

Complete the 'Count Me In!' Registration Form (see page 29).

Click submit. Once your registration is complete, a local Society representative will be in touch.

2

PLAN YOUR EVENT

PICK A DATE

 You can hold your School Sleepout anytime during Term 3 or during a time thats suits your school calendar.

PICK A VENUE

You can organise your School Sleepout anywhere safe within your school.
 This might be your multi-purpose centre, hall, classroom, parish grounds or staff rooms. Points to consider when picking a venue:

SAFETY

- Wet weather: It is great for the atmosphere to be somewhat exposed to the elements but make sure there is shelter in case of rain.
- Toilet facilities. That are accessible all night.
- Power supplies. So you can make hot drinks/soup.
- Water supply.

PROMOTION

- Get the word out! Promote your event through the school community.
- Create flyers and put them around school. Put the information in the school newsletter, school announcements and speak at assembly (an editable Sleepout poster has been included, see page 28).
- If your school has a Facebook page you can promote the Sleepout here too –
 but make sure you get permission for all your promotions from the relevant teachers.

SIGN UP AND REGISTRATION

• Keep a list of all the students who sign up to attend. A sample Permission Form has been included in this kit or use your school's permission forms (see page 30).



At least one school staff member or designated adult must be present during your School Sleepout event.

3

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Consider the potential risk associated with your event and plan what you can do to reduce or eliminate these risks.
- Make sure there is a first aid officer and kit at the event.

4

PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

- Collect cardboard boxes for people to sleep on or have people bring them.
- Create and distribute a list of things participants need to bring (pillow, jumper/warm clothing, sleeping bag, tooth brush etc).
- Organise food for dinner and breakfast. Appropriate food such as soup for dinner helps to 'set the scene.'
- Create a sign in sheet and desk to go at the door. This is important in case of emergency.
- Organise for the use of the school camera so you can take lots of photos. You might even like to pick someone to be the 'photographer' for the night or ask a teacher.
- Will there be a fundraising element on the night?
 Can you advertise this event in your newsletter/community newspaper?



CREATE AN AGENDA FOR THE NIGHT EXAMPLE AGENDA NIGHT

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
4.30pm	Welcome and Event Overview	Led by Mrs Thompson
5.00pm	Whole Group Activity: Poverty Game	Vinnies Youth representative
5.30pm	Presentation: School Sleepout and Group Activities	Vinnies Youth representative
6.15pm	Dinner - Soup and bread rolls	Served by Vinnies group with help from parent volunteers
6.45pm	Small Group Activity: Cardboard Structures Game	Led by Mrs Thompson
7.15pm	Documentary	Organised by Mr Ryan
8.45pm	Debrief	Led by Mr Ryan
9.15pm	Bed	

9.15pm Bed

CREATE AN AGENDA FOR THE MORNING

EXAMPLE AGENDA

MORNING

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
6.45am	Wake up	
7.00am	Breakfast - bacon and egg rolls	Served by parent volunteers
7.15am	Debrief of sleepout experience	Led by Mr Ryan
7.45am	Liturgy	Led by school Vinnies group with support from Mr Ryan
8.15am	Where to from here	Led by Mrs Thompson
8.30am	Home time	

- 6
- Complete the 'Post Sleepout Event' Form, & Fundraising Form. (see page 32&33)
- Send through your report along with your thoughts, feedback, stories and donations to your local Vinnies Facilitator. We want to hear about it!
- Update your school community on the event.
 Write a story for the newsletter or speak at assembly.
- Thank anybody who supported your event.
 This might be your teachers or any organisation that helped.

ON THE NIGHT

Engaging students in fun, interactive and meaningful activities is the key to hosting a successful Sleepout. The information below is a guide only, and the Vinnies Youth team is happy to work with any school community to assist with planning the event.

SETTING THE SCENE

- WELCOME STUDENTS INTO THE SPACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY.
- EXPLAIN HOW THE EVENT WILL WORK (WHS REQUIREMENTS, WHERE TOILETS ARE, WHERE TO GO TO IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ETC.)
- OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM/SCHEDULE.
- EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENING.





ACTIVITIES ON THE NIGHT

ACTIVITY 1: WHOLE GROUP ACTIVITY

- Organise a small activity to run with the students to gently engage them in the theme of the night. Examples include:
- Gather cardboard/newspaper to sit on ready for a guest speaker.
- Watch a short clip on 'Youth homelessness.'
- Play a 'Poverty game' or some sort of interactive game about homelessness.

ACTIVITY 2: GUEST SPEAKER, WORKSHOP OR PRESENTATION

 Invite a Guest Speaker to present a workshop/short presentation – someone who knows something about homelessness support.

Examples include:

- A local Vinnies representative to run a workshop on homelessness in the community.
- Another person in the local community working in homelessness support.

ACTIVITY 3: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Provide students with a chance to connect and respond to the issues surrounding homelessness through an experiential learning activity. For example, Cardboard Structures Game - Split students into small groups and ask them to create a cardboard structure for them to 'live in' for the night. Ask the students to consider what type of features their structure might need to include in order to keep them safe (weather, external parties, security etc.). Students will be judged on the most practical, relevant structure. Have students list places in their local area that they might consider going to if they found themselves homeless tomorrow.

Debrief Questions – Why did they pick that space? Would they feel safe? How would they meet their basic needs? How would their structure stand up to the weather?

COST OF LIVING ACTIVITY

Give students \$538.00 (the average Newstart payment) and ask them to work in groups to decide how much they would spend on rent, electricity, food and transport a fortnight. Reflect on whether these amounts are realistic. Once students have done the activity, bring them together and compare the amounts they have allocated to what the actual averages would be for your local area.

Debrief Questions – What did you notice?

- What would you do if you didn't have enough money to cover your basic costs?
 What things were you not able to budget for, eg, recreational activities, health care, dental, etc?
- What would you do if you were in this situation?
- What would be some of the barriers you might face?

This activity is available to download as a board game from the Vinnies Youth Website http://vinniesqld.wixsite.com/vinniesqldschools



ACTIVITIES ON THE NIGHT

ACTIVITY 4: REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Reflection activity is designed to get students to reflect on the issue in a more personal response. Ideas include a student led debrief; using a documentary as a catalyst for small group discussions, a reflective space; or even a journal/written response space.

Choose whatever is most appropriate for your students and school community.

TIP

There are some great YouTube clips about homelessness that might be a good catalyst for discussion.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

There are a number of activities you can do to engage around homelessness. Below are some suggestions to get you started:

MUSICAL HOMES - Just like musical chairs, except each chair represents a home, so before staring the game give each person a profile card with the story of someone who may have experienced homelessness on it. When someone gets out, they read their card to the rest of the group explaining how they became homeless

THINK PAIR SHARE - Pose a question to the students and have them think about it for a moment and then turn to the person next to them to discuss. Invite a couple of students to share what they discussed.

For example, **Question** – What do you think and feel about people who might be experiencing homelessness? Student can discuss the different perceptions they have and why they might have these perceptions. This can then lead into a wider discussion about the different causes of homelessness.

write a letter to a young person who might be experiencing homelessness. This will get the students thinking about what they would want someone to say to them. Alternatively, you could have students in groups compose a letter to their local council.

THE LEMON PEEL ACTIVITY - Give a lemon to each student and ask them to "get to know" their lemons. Have them look for any

identifying marks, shape, brightness of the lemon, etc. Then, take the lemons, put them in a basket and have the students find their lemon. Students should not have trouble with this. The next day, peel the lemons and have the students attempt to find their lemons again in the basket. This will teach them that although we look different on the outside, we are the same on the inside.

BRAINSTORMING - While not a new idea it can be a powerful tool for students to begin looking at what they can do, and how they could help someone.

what would you choose - This activity involves getting students to pick what belongings they believe to be essential if faced with having to sleep rough. Students can only pick between 3-5 items from a selected list. Students then need to discuss why they chose these items.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT - Similar to the show, this activity looks at how much everyday household items cost. This is a fun and quick game and links in really well with the cost of living activity.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

WHAT MAKES YOUR HOUSE A HOME

Have students write down and discuss all the things that makes their house a home, and how they would feel if they didn't have those things.

HAMPER PACKING

Students can put together hampers or dignity packs from donations collected during the Winter Appeal.

CANNED DONATIONS ACTIVITY

Using donations brought in from a canned food drive. Have students in groups put together a week's worth of meals.

This activity gets students thinking about the types of food being donated.

Students will have the opportunity to think about the longevity and sustainability of food and goods they donate. It also gives them an opportunity to be creative and think about how people living in poverty may not get the choices of food that those more fortunate do.

DRESSED BY VINNIES

Using clothing from your local Vinnies store, have students dress up and run a fashion parade. This highlights the importance of donating good quality clothing, while also encouraging young people to consider where they are shopping.

NOT ABLE TO HOST A SLEEPOUT

Sometimes a School Sleepout seems like it won't work in your school community.

Don't worry, you have lots of options!

You can still take a stand against homelessness in Australia and connect with Vinnies!

For example, you might like to try some of the following;

- Fundraise, host a dressed by Vinnies day.
- Host a canned goods or blanket drive to raise awareness
- You and your friends would run
 a social media campaign using,
 #halvehomelessness #vinniesyouthqld
 #goodworks
- You could modify the program and run an afternoon/evening session.
- Or you could choose to run a whole event including dinner and simply not Sleepout.
- Or maybe even run a small presentation and activities in a classroom instead.
 Whatever works for your school community, please don't hesitate to contact your local Vinnies Facilitator for advice/support.

For more ideas or to discuss this further please contact your local Vinnies Youth Team.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME GREAT IDEAS? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT WHAT ACTIVITIES YOU ARE PLANNING.



REFLECTION ACTIVITY — JENNY'S STORY

Jenny was 19 years old when she got married and became pregnant soon after. Jenny was excited to be expecting her first child.

About 5 months after her son was born,
Jenny and her husband moved in with her in-laws. After moving, Jenny's husband become very controlling and mean towards her, and Jenny soon realised that her husband's family didn't really want her there.

Jenny's in-laws treated her very badly, they were rude towards her and only wanted her there to perform domestic duties and look after the children.

Life for Jenny was very restricted, she was not allowed to leave the house or attend appointments on her own and was often faced with the threat of violence. When her son was three. Jenny became pregnant again, this time with a daughter. For Jenny and her children their home became increasingly unsafe, and Jenny knew that things were only getting worse. Faced with an impossible decision. Jenny bravely decided to leave. This was a difficult decision for Jenny as she had two young children to consider and no family or friends close by to turn to for help. After leaving for the first time, Jenny's husband promised that things would be better so she returned back to her husband and his family. However, things didn't get better, in fact they got even worse. Jenny again decided to leave, with no one to help her and nowhere else to turn to, Jenny sought refuge for her and her children in a shelter.

The story however does not end here, despite the challenges Jenny has already faced and continues to face, there is hope. Jenny, with the help of local Vinnies volunteers is beginning to rebuild her life and the lives of her two young children. When Jenny left, she had to leave in a hurry, and was not able to gather any of her belongings, but with the help of Vinnies Jenny has now been able to get the help and support she needed. Through the support of Vinnies volunteers, Jenny has been able to get help with accessing Centrelink and replacing her ID, as she was not able to take this with her when she left. Because of this support Jenny and her children have been able to leave the shelter and now have access to a safe and stable home.

Jenny and her children still have a long road ahead of them, with many challenges yet to be faced. But since leaving Jenny has become more hopeful for the future, and is now enjoying the simple things like being able to go out. Jenny has even started making friends, and she is looking at studying at TAFE.

There are many people in our communities who, like Jenny, need somewhere to turn to.

Thanks to individuals and school communities across Queensland, Vinnies is somewhere people can turn to.







ACTIVITY

This is Jenny and her two young children. Take a moment and think about what comes to mind when you see this picture.

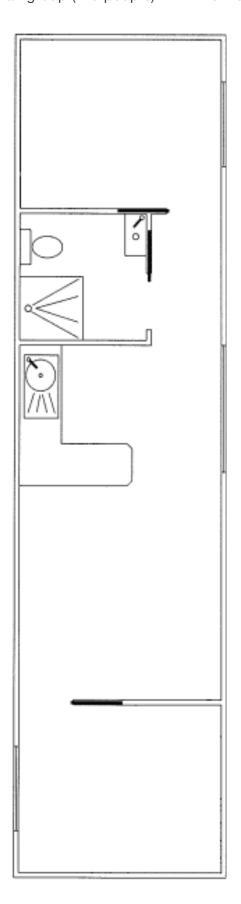
REFLECTION - Based on what you see here, how would you describe their lives?
ACTION - Read Jenny's story on page 21.
Tieda definity 3 story on page 21.
REFLECTION - How do you feel after hearing Jenny's story? What surprised you about Jenny's story?



ACTION - Think about Jenny and her children, and what it might have been like for them leaving
their home and having to stay in a shelter. Make a list of all the things they would have left behind.
REFLECTION - Jenny and her children have had to start again. With the help of Vinnies, Jenny
and her child have moved out of the shelter and now have somewhere to live. What do you think
Jenny and her children would be feeling and why?

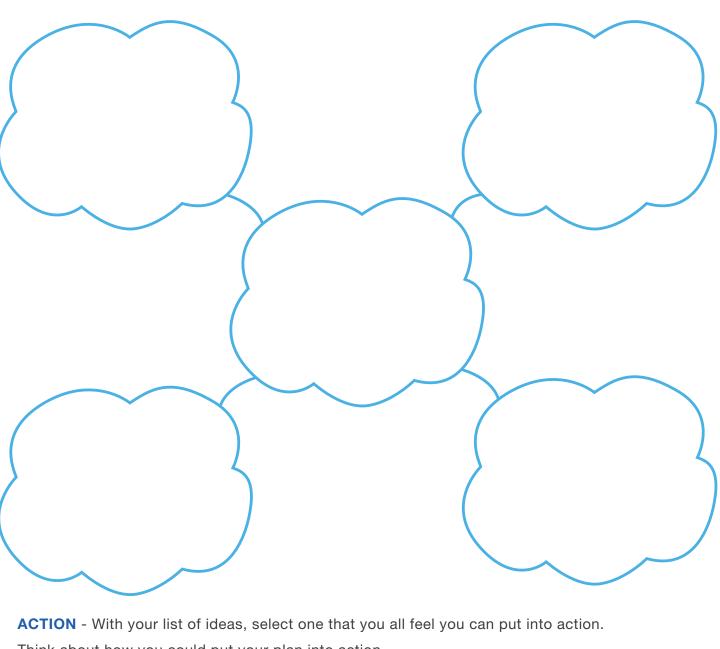


ACTION - Consider the list you just made of all the things that Jenny and her children would have left behind, and think about all the items they now might need to get for their new home. In a small group (4-5 people) fill in the worksheet below of all the items they will need.





ACTION - In your group think about what you can do to help Jenny and her children to get some of the belongings they need for their new home. Use the mind map below to list all your different ideas.



nk about how you could put your plan into action.					





Jenny and her children had to move out of their family home because it was unsafe. They have now moved into a new home and with the help of Vinnies are beginning to rebuild their lives. It has been tough on Jenny's two children, they had to leave all their stuff behind and are now having to get used to a new home. Just like Jenny's two children, there are other children who have had to leave all their belongings, friends and family behind.

ACTION - Make a card or write a letter to encourage someone who has had to leave their home.
ACTION - As a result of their move, Jenny's son has been feeling anxious and has now just started at a new school and is nervous about making friends. Think about what you could do to make Jenny's son feel welcomed if he was to come to your school. Write a list of what you would do to make him feel welcome.
ACTION - Jenny's children were not able to bring any of their toys, books, videos, or games with
them when they left their home. At the moment, Jenny is unable to afford to buy her children any toys, books, videos or games.
Can you design a game that Jenny's children can play without having to buy anything?

SLEEPOUT DOCUMENTS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

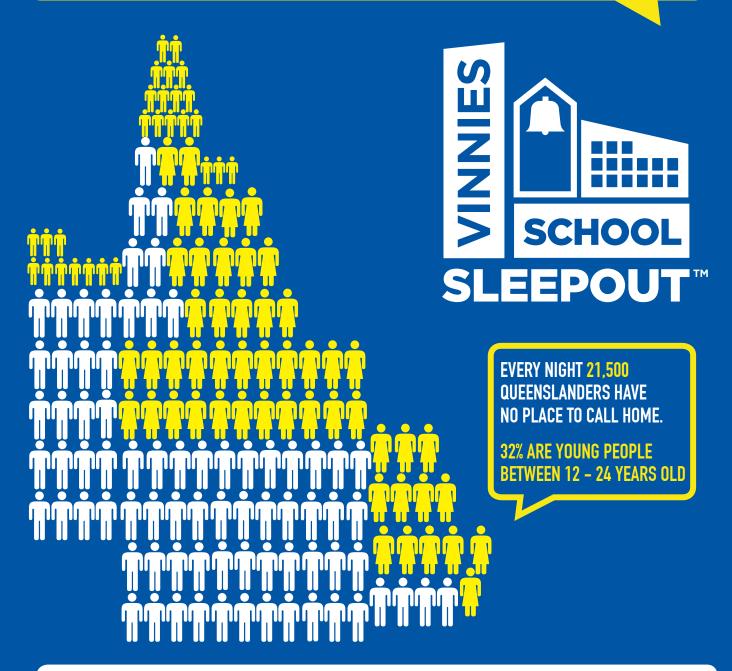
- Once your Registration is submitted, a Letter of Authority to raise funds in the Society's name together with your confirmed Registration will be sent to you.
- 2. Once you are approved, you may use the Society's official logo to promote your fundraising event but may not use it in conjunction with selling or promoting of any commercial produce or service. The officially approved event logo will be forwarded to you if requested.
- 3. The Society does not permit its name or logo to be used to endorse any commercially available products or services without the explicit written approval of the State Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.
- All artwork using the Society logo for external public audiences must be first approved by the Society before being printed.
- 5. Any promotional material designed to encourage public support for your event including notices, tickets, brochures or advertisements must include the words: 'all funds raised will benefit St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland'.
- 6. All funds raised in the name of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland must be deposited into an account in the Society's name at a recognised financial institution. Details of the Society's banking arrangements will be provided to you. (It is an offence in Queensland to deposit funds raised in the name of a charity into a private bank account (Collections Act 1966)).

- 7. Gifts (of \$2 or more) to the Society are tax deductible and official gift receipts are available on request. Where interim receipts are required either for gifts or other contributions, a supply of receipt forms may be obtained from the State Office under certain conditions.
- 8. Funds raised in the name of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland may not be shared with any other organisation. Joint fundraising events may be approved but written approval must be sought from all benefiting charities prior to the conduct of the fundraising.
- 9. All Authority holders are required to complete and sign a Report of Fundraising. The Report, in the required format, together with all supporting receipting and banking vouchers, should be forwarded to the Society's State Office within 30 days of the completion of the fundraising or by 30 June each year, whichever is the earlier date. The Vinnies Youth Team will email this to you after the event and will help you complete this. See Post Sleepout.

EVENT REPORT

- 10. All Authority holders are expected to manage risks associated with their fundraising events and must consider the safety of participants, insurance s where necessary, licenses, permits and council approvals that may be required with certain types of events.
- 11. St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland staff are unable to become directly involved in the conduct of your event but will be available to provide advice and support on the night as required.

JOIN IN ON YOUR SCHOOL SLEEPOUT!



DATE: TIME:

LOCATION:

WHAT TO BRING:



COUNT ME IN 'REGISTRATION FORM'

School Name		ABN		
Contact Person		Position		
Phone		Email		
Address		·		
Suburb		Postcode		
SCHOOL SLEEP	OUT EVENT			
Date	Start / Venue	е	Approximate num	ber of students
Brief description of what you will be doing during the event.				
Fundraising Start Date Fundraising End Date	Will you be collecting donations? No	Will you req Society rep to collect th If yes, when you like this collected.	resentative nese?	es
	Society representative to talk to to or during the event?		e which of the ties are available	Is there any additional support you would like?
Yes N	lo	Projecto	or	Yes No
If yes, please pro	vide suggested date and time:	Microph	one	If yes, please describe:
Please indicate th	ne space available for the Society	Sound E	quipment	
representative us	•	Comput	er	
	nall 🔲 Outdoor quad	Other		
Classroom				
Indoor spo	rts hall Library Other			
I/we acknowledge and agree to abide	e that we have read the Terms & Conce by these.	ditions as set dow	vn by St Vincent de	Paul Society Queensland
_				
Signature				
Name of organisat	tion/school			
Position	Date/_	/		
	DDECC CUD	NAIT to waterway farmer	via anadil anada assess	Slata Cubmit

SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Students are invited to attend and participate in the School Sleepout event. The event will be held at (Place) from (Time) on (Event Date), and will conclude at (Time) the following morning. Dinner and breakfast will be provided to participants, and they will be required to bring a pillow and sleeping bag, warm clothing and a toothbrush.

The School Sleepout allows students to connect on a personal level with the issue of homelessness by sleeping out as a school community, whilst raising awareness to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.

The event will include activities designed to break open the issue of homelessness. Such activities will include a St Vincent de Paul Society presentation about homelessness and the School Sleepout, and a simulated homeless experience through students 'sleeping out' in a controlled environment monitored by staff and parent volunteers.

We hope the School Sleepout initiative will give our students a tangible experience of what it would be like to be homeless, bring awareness about the realities faced by people considered to be homeless, and encourage students to do something about it!

Please sign the slip below to indicate your permission for your child to attend. If you have any questions about the School Sleepout, please contact me at the office. Students are asked to return the slip to Student Services by (2 weeks prior).

Kind Regards,
Insert teachers name)
Position

Permission Slip for (School Name) School Sleepout Please return to Student Servi	ices by (2 weeks prior).	
I give permission for my child,	to attend the	
I consent to my child having their photo taken for use by the St Vincent de Paul Society Qld in promoting or follow up for the event.		
Dietary Requirements		
Parent/Guardian Signature	_ Date	

EVENT CHECKLIST



SCHOOL SLEEPOUT PLANNING PROCESS

SCHOOL SLLLFOOT	PLANNING PROCESS	
Managemer	e aft agenda school's Risk	WEEKS PRIOR Invite any guest speakers or workshop presenters Start promoting your School Sleepout at your school Start distributing Permission Forms to interested students Create a register of students who sign up to attend
workshop p	guest speakers or resenters	WEEK OF THE EVENT Prepare all resources for event
Finalise regiparticipants Create reso	urce list	Confirm catering Remind student participants
SCHOOL SLEEPOUT	FVENT OVERVIEW	
0011002 02221 001	EVERT OVERVIEW	
Start	Finish	
Venue		
Person Responsible	Position	
Student Participants	Teachers	
Event Overview		
Supporting Documents	Schedule: Yes No Contact List: Yes	Risk Management: Yes No No Other:
	1	

FUNDRAISING FORM

Thank you for raising funds to support the good works of the Society in your local community.

Your donations go to supporting individuals and families within your local community to help rebuild their lives.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IF YOU HAVE COLLECTED FUNDS AS PART OF YOUR VINNIES SCHOOL SLEEPOUT

School Name			
Address			
Suburb		Postcode	
Date your funds were banked		Amount Fundraised	
THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY QUEENSLAND BANK DETAILS			
BANK - Commonwealth Bank			
NAME – Society of St Vincent de Paul			
BSB - 064 002			
ACCOUNT NO - 0091 4461			
REFERENCE			
Please use your school name, post code and the word Sleepout as your reference.			
For example: St Marys Primary 4305 Sleepout.			
WHICH ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY SERVICE WOULD YOU LIKE THE FUNDS TO GO IN TO?			
LOCAL CONFERENCE YOUTH PROGRAMS			
OTHER PLEASE SPECIFY			

POST SLEEPOUT EVENT FORM Name School name Post Code Email Who was Vinnies Youth Conference Direct the donation member Officer deposit given to? Did your students find the Sleepout meaningful? YES NO Do you feel your involvement in the Sleepout initiative has been relevant, YES NO beneficial and worthwhile for your students? What was the highlight of your Sleepout? If goods in kind were donated please advise (for example blankets, jackets, cans etc). What would you like to see in next year's Sleepout? If money was raised as part of the Sleepout Initiative please specify how much. Would your school like to get involved with other Youth Initiatives of the YES NO St Vincent de Paul Society? Do you have any photos or stories you'd like to share with us? YES NO PRESS SUBMIT to return form via email once complete.

WHY TAKING A STAND AGAINST HOMELESSNESS IS IMPORTANT



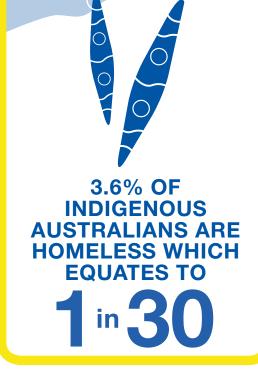
of Indigenous homeless
people live in severely
overcrowded dwellings more than double the figure
for non-Indigenous people.





Indigenous Australians and single parents are over-represented in the numbers, with domestic and family violence the main reasons they seek help from homelessness services.





1 in 200

PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT A HOME

WHY TAKING A STAND AGAINST HOMELESSNESS IS IMPORTANT

HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, across Australia more than 116,400 people are faced with homelessness every single day. For some, homelessness is a one-off occurrence, while for others, it is a prolonged experience that may be interspersed with periods of being housed. The experience of homelessness in Australia can also vary greatly – from sleeping on the streets or moving between temporary situations, to living in a crowded or unsafe dwelling that affects a person's ability to participate in family and community life.

HOMELESSNESS IN QUEENSLAND

Queenslanders account for approximately 19 per cent of the national homeless population, that's an estimated 21,500 people without a home. Thats 46 persons per 10,000 people in Queensland experiencing homelessness. According to the ABC report Fact File: Without a Home (2015), the regions of Far North Queensland, Outback – North Queensland (Mt Isa), Inner Brisbane, Innisfail – Cassowary Coast, and Charters Towers – Ayr – Ingham record some of the highest proportions of people experiencing homelessness per capita. Each of these regions fall within the top 20 most affected regions within Australia.⁶



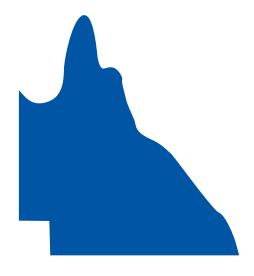


WHO EXPERIENCES HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness can and does affect individuals from various backgrounds. It does not discriminate against a person's socio-economic status, education level, ethnicity, gender or age.

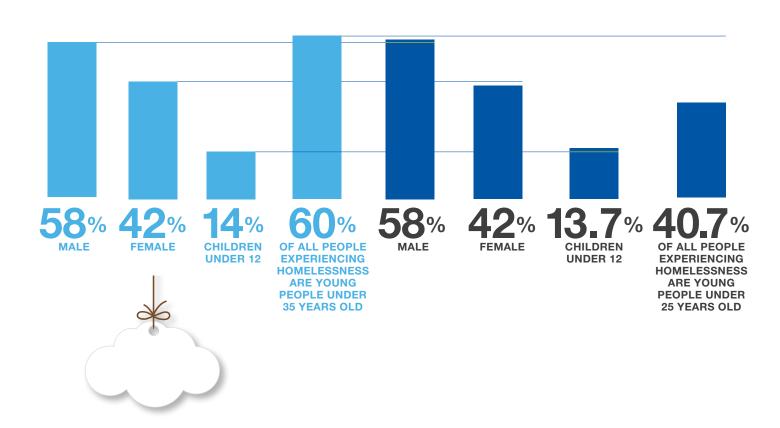
That is to say that anyone can experience homelessness.





HOMELESSNESS AUSTRALIA WIDE⁷

HOMELESSNESS QUEENSLAND WIDE⁷



TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness can be categorised into the following three types.

PRIMARY HOMELESSNESS – is experienced by people without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings)

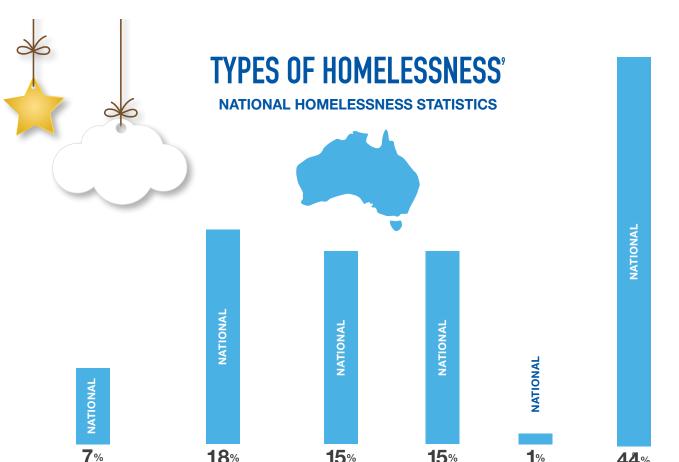


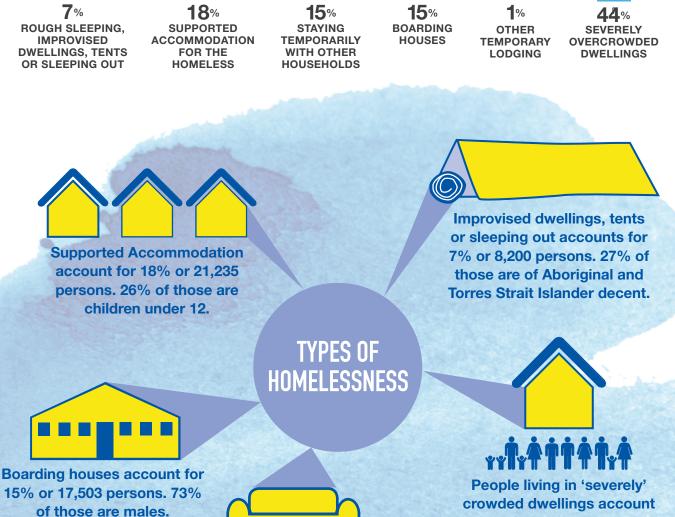
SECONDARY HOMELESSNESS – is experienced by people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, youth refuges, and "couch surfing")



TERTIARY HOMELESSNESS – is experienced by people staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards (e.g. boarding housing and caravan parks). Australia has a significantly large hidden homeless population, accounting for the vast majority (93%) of people experiencing homelessness. The hidden homeless population predominately live in overcrowded dwellings. While primary homelessness is often the most common image portrayed through various forms of media and is the most visible, in that you may see people sleeping on the street. It accounts for just 7 per cent of those experiencing homelessness.







Homeless and staying temporarily

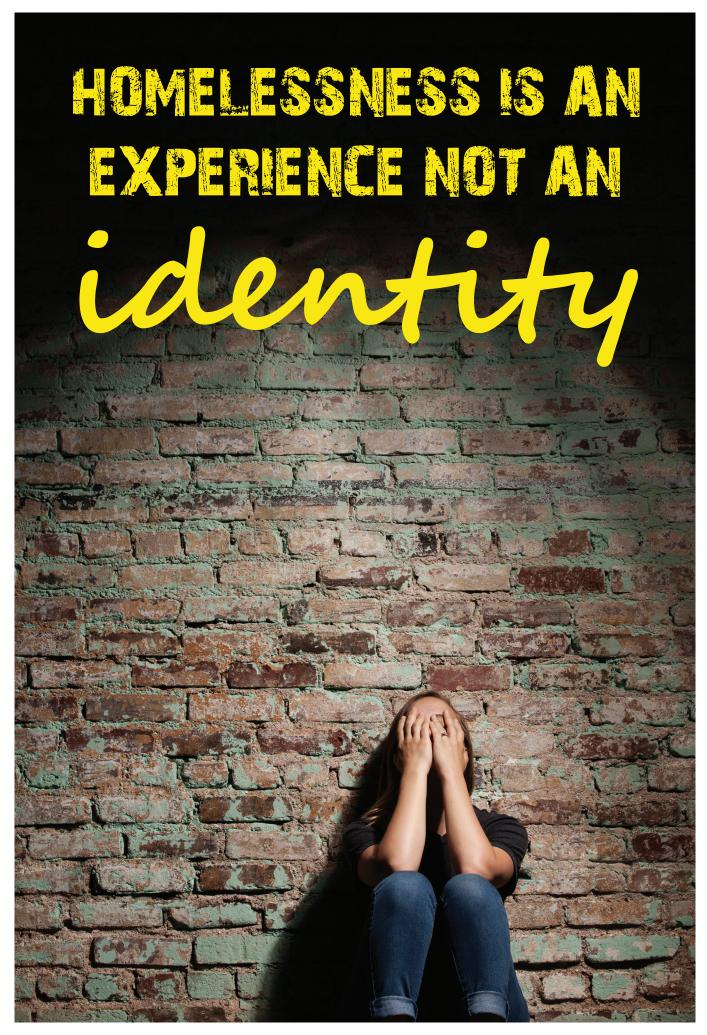
in other households accounts for 15% or 17,725 persons. 41% of those are female for 44% or 51,088 persons. 32% of those are young people

between 12-24 years old

WHY PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

There are a number of causes of homelessness. It is not uncommon for there to be a number of contributing factors that have led someone to experience homelessness. According to the Australia Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare the following are the main reasons people seek assistance. % HEALTH INADEQUATE OR INAPPROPRIATE **DWELLING** CONDITIONS 20% HOUSING CRISIS **DOMESTIC & FAMILY** VIOLENCE **CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS**¹⁰ TRANSITION **FROM** CUSTODIAL ARRANGEMENTS 5% ACCOMMODATION **PREVIOUS** HOUSING AFFORDABILITY STRESS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES 15%

BREAKDOWN



BREAKING STEREOTYPES

If you ask the majority of people what comes to mind when they are asked to describe what homelessness looks like, a typical response might include something like, someone living on the streets, not having a house to live in, or having to sleep in their car. When taken further and asked to describe the picture that comes to mind when we think of someone who might be homeless, the sorts of answers one might expect include; someone sleeping on a bench, an older Caucasian male with a beard wearing dirty clothes, a middle aged man smelling of alcohol, looking dishevelled holding up a sign on the streets or even still an older woman wearing lots of dirty, torn and well-worn clothing sitting next to a trolley full of all her belongings.

While this may not be untrue, and is often representative of the images portrayed through various forms of media, the reality is that this portrayal of homelessness is far from the norm. The problem with stereotypes such as this is that it is a fixed and oversimplified image of homelessness that doesn't accurately reflect the realities of being homeless, or the people experiencing homelessness.

The fact is the majority of homelessness is hidden, with most people living in overcrowded dwellings. As for the typical image, there isn't one, anyone can experience it, homelessness does not discriminate.

THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

It is important to understand that

reinforce or break down stereotypes.

The language we use to describe someone experiencing homelessness is often reflective of the image and perception we have about that person and why they are in this situation.

Unfortunately, this is generally a stereotype that does not accurately reflect the person or their situation.

Language is powerful, and can be used to

homelessness is an experience and not someone's identity. When referring to someone who may be homelessness, we use the term, experiencing homelessness.

This recognises that the person has an innate dignity and right to be respected and that the person comes before the situation. Further to this, for most people, homelessness is a short-term experience, not a life sentence.

Changing the way we refer to people experiencing homelessness is one of the

first steps to changing the perceptions of

the people going through this experience.

homelessness, and indeed our treatment of

When we shift our thinking, our language and understanding on an issue to valuing the person first and foremost as a person, not as a problem, we recognise their worth and affirm their dignity. We then become willing to invest our time, our support, our talents and ourselves into the person, rather than the situation.





HOW THE SOCIETY HELPS HOMELESSNESS

Each year, the St Vincent de Paul Society responds to over two million calls for assistance from people who are living with the social consequences of inequality and exclusion, including low income, poor health, low levels of education and homelessness.

Our work across the country shows us that all attempts to address the causes of poverty require one key foundation: stable, safe and secure housing.¹¹ The St Vincent de Paul Society recognises that housing is a core human right, and is essential to enabling all people to participate fully in society.

We believe this for two reasons. First, if a family or individual does not have somewhere safe to call home, then the prospect of addressing any other circumstance that limits their ability to participate in society, let alone thrive, is negligible. Housing is the essential foundation on which solutions to other factors causing poverty and exclusion can be built.

Secondly, the dream of owning one's house is deeply entrenched in Australia's cultural expectations and having a place to call home is essential to our sense of belonging, security and, ultimately, self. Home is our sanctuary, a place to rest. It is where we hold memories of loved ones, where our futures are planned and where our families grow. Without somewhere to belong, our spirit and identity are adrift, and our capacity for community engagement is weakened.¹²





ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



HOW WE HELP



Centres of Charity (Vinnies shops)



Mental health



services



Disaster relief



Social justice



Family support centres



Child and family support services



Overseas services

Financial

wellbeing

services



Food

distribution

Drug and

alcohol

support

works



Special



Housing and support



and refugee services



Migrant



Youth

services

Aged and

disability

services

homelessness



Education services

HOW WE PROVIDE HELP

12,582 **PEOPLE**















Churches or

Presbytery

locations



Phone

Centres

of Charity

(Vinnies

shops)



Home visits





Overseas services





Hospitals or community service providers



Family support centres



works

WHY WE HELP

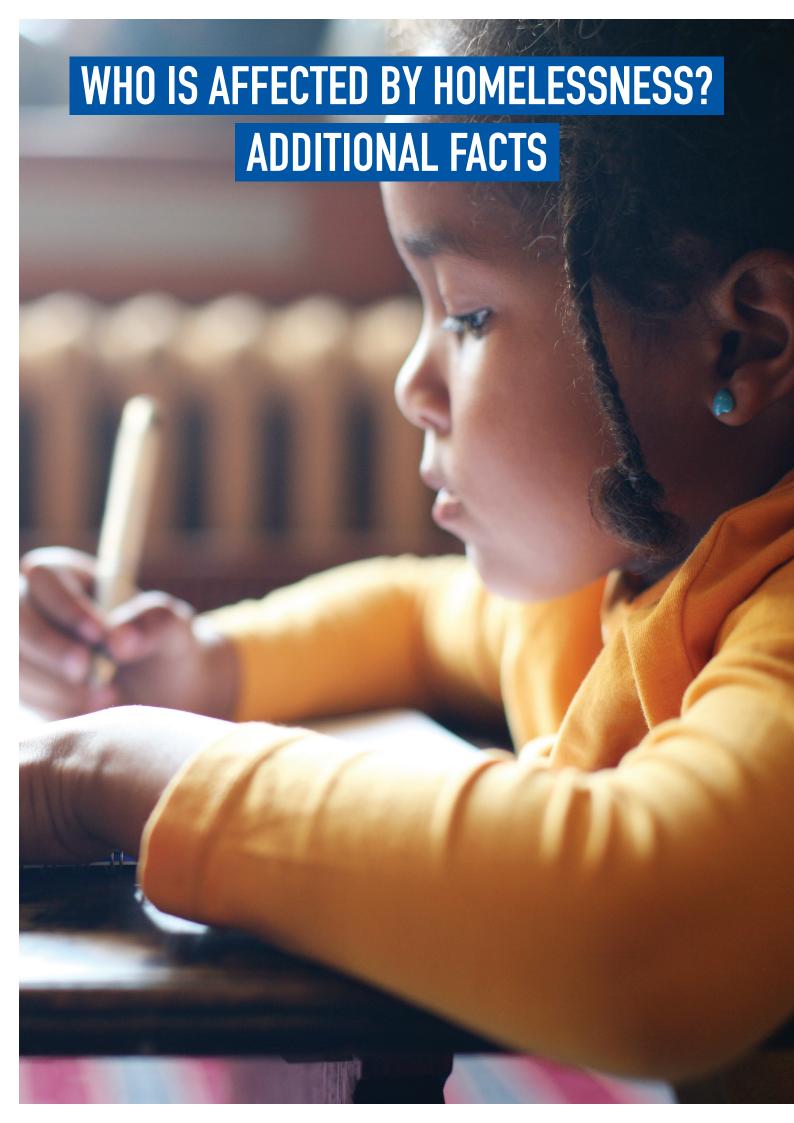






WHO WE HELP







YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOMELESSNESS

Young people under 25 years make up 38 per cent of all people experiencing homelessness. Studies have shown that those who experience homelessness at a young age are more likely to continue to experience homelessness in adulthood.¹³

Young people who become homeless experience higher rates of disengagement from education and employment.

They have increased exposure to factors which are detrimental to their health, such

as drug use, inadequate nutrition, limited access to medical care and school, unsafe sexual encounters and violence. Young people who are homeless often experience poor mental health, poverty, trauma, substance abuse, and social isolation and are victims of violence. Also, young people who are homeless are more likely to have involvement with the juvenile justice system. These issues make it more difficult to escape homelessness.

COST OF LIVING COMPARED WITH YOUTH ALLOWANCE

BASED ON A BASIC FORTNIGHTLY ALLOWANCE OF \$445.80

ITEM	MEDIAN COST/ FORTNIGHT	% OF YOUTH ALLOWANCE	DIFFERENCE (N) +/-
Rent	\$350.00	78.5	+\$95.80
Food	\$136.00	30.5	-\$40.2
Transport	\$41.20	9.2	-\$81.40
Utilities / Internet	\$71.00	15.9	-\$152.4
Incidentals	\$25.00	5.6	-\$177.40
Mobile phone	\$15.00	3.3	-\$192.40

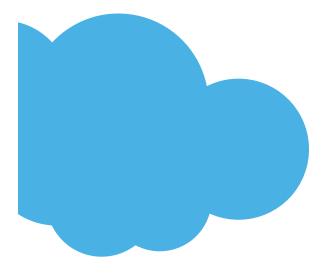
CHILDREN AND HOMELESSNESS

Children are one of society's most vulnerable demographics. Children make up a high number of people needing homeless services. It is estimated that more than 15,500 children under 12 are homeless and it is estimated that over 400 of those children are sleeping rough.

EDUCATION

Children experiencing homelessness have restricted access to and participation in school. Due to the transience of homeless families, children often end up attending a number of schools. Some issues children experiencing homelessness face at school are:

- Emotional isolation and difficulty relating to their peers
- Difficulty making and maintaining friendships
- Bullying
- Reduced concentration skills
- Academic and learning delays
- Increased absenteeism
- Increased likelihood to leave school early



HEALTH

Experiencing homelessness has an impact on both the physical and mental health of children. Children experiencing homelessness have an increased likelihood of:

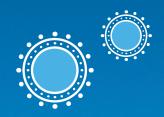
- Ear infections
- Developmental delays
- Nutritional deficits
- Asthma
- Infectious illness
- Emergency room use and hospitalization
- Dental problems
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Abdominal pain
- Anxiety and depression
- Behavioral issues
- Low self-esteem and self-confidence.

In addition, children who are experiencing homelessness have been found to have less access to health services due to increased mobility, lack of transport and financial difficulties. Immunization among children who are experiencing homelessness is low and leads to increased risk of infectious diseases.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND HOMELESSNESS

Of all the people experiencing homelessness 23,437 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Indigenous Australians make up only 3% of the population of Australia, yet they account for 20% of the homeless population.

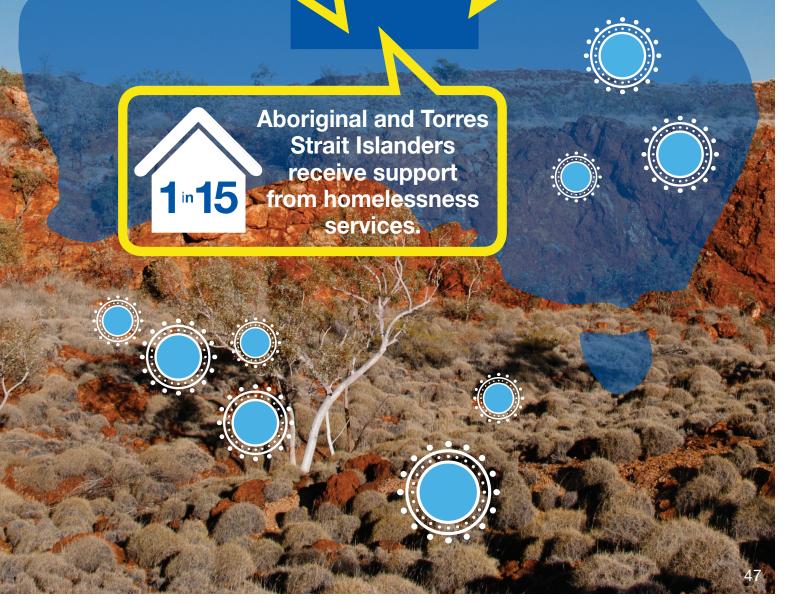


Of the 13,717 people experiencing homelessness in the Northern Territory over half are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decent.



INDIGENOUS
AUSTRALIANS ARE
WITHOUT A HOME.
This rate is 14 times greater than

non-indigenous Australians.



DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Domestic and family violence is the number one cause for people experiencing homelessness. This type of violence is often experienced in the victim's home; making escaping very difficult if there is no social and financial support. 15 25% of those experiencing homelessness are forced to flee their home due to domestic and family violence.

Nearly half the people seeking assistance from domestic and family violence services are living in single parent households.

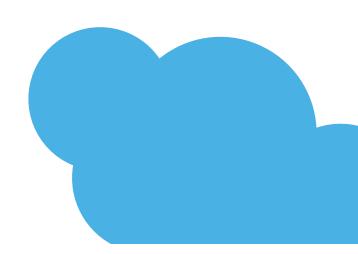
One in three people seeking help are escaping violence. Most are single mothers with children. Females aged 15 years and over make up over 60 per cent of the people seeking assistance for domestic and family violence. Most males seeking assistance for domestic and family violence are children.¹⁶

HOUSING CRISIS

Australia is facing a significant housing crisis. There is simply not enough affordable housing to meet demand, and the situation has been getting steadily worse. Growing numbers of people are living without secure accommodation or are experiencing housing stress (paying more than 30 per cent of household income on their housing). Australia has a shortfall of housing supply, estimated at over 500,000 rental dwellings, which are both affordable and available to the lowest income households. At the same time, the social housing system is struggling to cope with demand, with over 200,000 households on the waiting list for social housing.¹⁷

The research is clear. Overpriced housing pushes people into poverty. Unsafe housing significantly intensifies physical and mental illness. People living with a disability experience deeper exclusion and inequality when denied access to secure, affordable and appropriate housing. Lack of access to alternative housing increases exposure to domestic violence. Housing stress prevents people from participating in work or study, which entrenches inequality for the next generation. This is why housing is essential.¹⁸





SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES & THE UNMET NEED¹⁹

There is a significant gap between the number of services available to people experiencing homelessness to adequately meet their needs.

Every day thousands of Australians are accessing specialist homelessness services. On average, an estimated 59,900 people are supported each day. However, each day there are 261 requests for assistance from people who were not able to receive any support.

- On average, 72% of daily unassisted requests included a need for some type of accommodation support.
- Over 9 in 10 (93%) daily unassisted requests for services from single persons with children were for accommodation needs.

In addition to those who were not able to receive any assistance, there were an estimated 95,000 requests for assistance which were unable to be met fully.

The majority of people's requests were for accommodation. It is estimated that one third of services would need to be relocated to match the distribution of people experiencing homelessness with places to sleep.

For example, the Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in the country, 15 times the national average, however it has the lowest number of services available. Just 3.7% of people experiencing homelessness can be accommodated.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ASSISTED IN QUEENSLAND

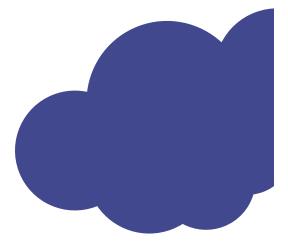
1 in 117 received assistance by specialist homelessness services.

The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:

- Housing crisis (50%)
- Financial difficulties (43%)
- Housing affordability stress (33%).

On average, 17 requests for assistance went unmet each day. 288,000 people were assisted by specialist homelessness services in 2016-17.





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GENERAL ENQUIRIES





