

Fact Sheet Homelessness

For someone to be considered homeless they must be without stable, long-term accommodation or accommodation that doesn't meet the national requirements of a living quarter. Traditional images of homelessness are of old men in raggedy clothes and alcohol on their breath, but now the image is becoming a lot more diverse – anyone can experience homelessness: men, women, children, elderly, youth and even families. Homelessness is an issue that comes in many shapes and forms.

Every night across Australia, 100,000 people are homeless. 14,000 of which are sleeping on the streets. 55% Women and children and 37% of single women who are homeless are escaping violence.

Types

Primary homelessness

- Sleeping on the streets
- Sleeping in the park
- Sleeping under bridges
- Sleeping in improvised shelters (e.g. cardboard boxes & dumpsters)

Secondary homelessness

- Couch surfing
- Refuges
- emergency accommodation
- Hospitals

Tertiary homelessness

- Boarding housing
- Motels
- Hotels
- Contemned buildings
- Abandoned buildings
- Caravan parks
- Trailer parks



Resulting Problems

- Loose support systems
- Unable to get most financial aid without fixed address
- Unable to get a job
- Decreased mental health
- Decline in general health
- Damage to friend and family relationships
- Loss of identity
- Higher risk of disease
- Higher imprisonment rates
- Higher rates for child abuse
- Lack of education
- Struggle to have Maslow's hierarchy of needs met

Causes

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Financial hardship
- Family & domestic violence
- Lack of affordable accommodation
- Unstable house arrangements
- Eviction
- Family breakdown
- Chronic gambling
- Poverty

Zonta House Refuge Association provides support services to women who have experienced family and domestic violence, mental health issues, homelessness and other crises enabling them the opportunity to make safe and sustainable life choices. For more information or support, visit our resource page at www.zontahouse.org.au