

Homelessness, how can I help?

- 1 Seek to understand the issue. Then raise awareness of the problem.
- 2 Attend an event during Homelessness Week.
- 3 Donate to a frontline organisation that works in this space.
- 4 Volunteer with a frontline organisation that works in this space.
- 5 Support community housing in your neighbourhood.
- 6 Write to your local member of parliament.

Organisations working towards ending homelessness.

You can call these local organisations and ask how you can help or you can register as a volunteer online with Volunteering Tasmania.

Organisation	Contact
City Mission	P (03) 6335 3000 Safe Space 63353099 (24/7) W www.citymission.org.au/support-us
The Salvation Army	P (03) 6323 7500 E corpsofficer.launceston@salvationarmy.org.au W www.salvationarmy.org.au/launceston/contact-us/
St Vincent de Paul Society	P (03) 6333 0822 E admin@vinnietas.org.au W www.vinnietas.org.au
Shekinah House	P 0478 230 525 E shop4hope777@gmail.com W www.facebook.com/ShekinahHouse777
Launceston Benevolent Society	P (03) 6344 4213 E benevolentsociety@bigpond.com W www.lbs.org.au/help-out/donate-1
City Baptist Church	P 0403 310 501 E jeff@citybaptistchurch.net W www.citybaptistchurch.net/contact-us
Anglicare Tasmania	P 1800 243 232 E hcadmin@anglicare-tas.org.au W www.anglicare-tas.org.au
CatholicCare Housing Connect	P 1800 819 447 E catholiccare.launceston@aohtas.org.au W www.catholiccaretas.org.au/get-involved
Strike It Out	P 0402 024 271 E strikeitout@outlook.com W www.strikeitout.com/getinvolved



*This resource is adapted with permission from the City of Clarence resource, Homelessness - How Can I help. References: [1] www.humanrights.gov.au, [2] www.aihw.gov.au

Understanding Homelessness.

The facts.

Someone experiencing homelessness does not have a primary residence. They do not have a safe, secure, ongoing, reliable, and affordable place to live and sleep. Homelessness comes in many forms, this includes:



Persons living in boarding houses



Persons staying temporarily with other households



Persons in supported accommodation



Persons living in improvised dwellings



Persons living in severely crowded dwellings



Persons in other temporary lodgings

What causes homelessness?

"The causes of homelessness are numerous and complex. Homelessness can be caused by poverty, unemployment or by a shortage of affordable housing, or it can be triggered by family breakdown, mental illness, sexual assault, addiction, financial difficulty, gambling or social isolation.

Domestic violence is the single biggest cause of homelessness in Australia.

Young people are more likely to become homeless because they often experience difficulties securing long-term accommodation and are particularly affected by poverty and the shortage of affordable housing in Australia.

We need to work towards eliminating the reasons why people become homeless in the first place, and support people experiencing homelessness to find more permanent living solutions."

Australian Human Rights Commission

What do crisis support services do to help?

Access to housing is important. But it's also important to understand that addressing homelessness is more than just providing a house. The longer someone sleeps rough the more likelihood of additional trauma along with physical and mental health or social-emotional issues and associated challenges.

Local Crisis Response Services may provide food, clothing, tents, sleeping bags and bedding; shower and washing facilities or health outreach, alongside other supports like shower and washing facilities. They also help homeless people to have a voice, and advocate for them. Street to Home Workers and Street Chaplains support homeless people in their current situation until they are able to find and keep a permanent living solution.

"Early intervention and Prevention, including support for at risk tenancies, and sufficient access to family violence support, along with improved tenancy protection against large rent increases are also needed." Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.