



SOLVING THE TASMANIAN HOUSING CRISIS

State Election 2014 Information ► Factsheet 2

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Beneficial and vital services in Tasmania.

ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

- According to 2011 census figures 1,579 Tasmanians were homeless.
- 39% of homeless Tasmanians were under 25 years old and 6.5% over 65 years old.
- There has been an increase of a total of 434 homeless persons since 2006.
- Around 32% of homeless people were classified as secondary homeless – i.e. staying with friends or relatives. Approximately 10% of homeless people were sleeping rough, and 45% experienced tertiary homelessness (e.g. living in boarding houses and caravans).
- Most common causes of homelessness (2012-13) are financial difficulties (21%), interpersonal relations (including domestic violence, 26%) and accommodation crisis (32%).
- 5,585 Tasmanians received support from a Specialist Homeless Service (SHS) in 2012-13.

THE ISSUES

Tasmania has the highest risk of homelessness in the nation, mainly due to our average low incomes.ⁱ We also have the lowest overall numbers of homeless people in Australia,ⁱⁱ but proportionately one of the highest rates of homelessness of the southern States.ⁱⁱⁱ Homelessness services are part of a broad spectrum of services that work together to ensure all Tasmanians are healthy, housed, educated, employed and socially connected.

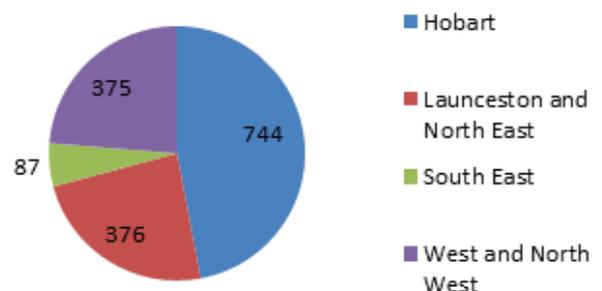
In June 2014, the transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) is due to expire. As yet, funding has not been allocated to continue the agreement.^{iv} This puts hundreds of vulnerable Tasmanians, their services and specialist staff at imminent risk.

Services such as:

- Tenancy management and support services at Grove St Ulverstone, Thistle and York Streets in Launceston. These are essential Supported Accommodation Facilities (SAFs)

People Experiencing Homelessness

(by region)



- Highly successful State-wide tenancy support services such as the STAY program and the Reintegration for Ex-Offenders (REO) program
- The two Common Ground facilities in Hobart.

Removing tenancy supports for ex-prisoners and young people, for example, also removes their means of accessing training and education, and therefore from being employed. Defunding homelessness services will only exacerbate the chronic levels of poverty and social disengagement.

A SOLUTION

SHS services work - they help people to exit homelessness.

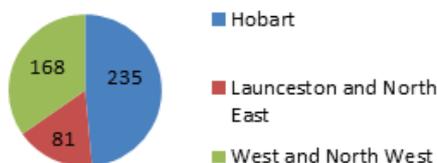
NPAH funded services are having very positive results for people at risk of, and those experiencing homelessness. The Auditor-General's review of the Tasmanian implementation of the NPAH, released in March 2013, found "persuasive evidence" that the programs it reviewed are making a difference to homeless people.^v

For example, at Grove Street SAF, 75% of participants rated their participation in training, education and/or employment as increased since they moved in. The recidivism rate for clients who completed the REO pilot programs dropped from 65% to less than 3%.^{vi} The STAY program reduced the rate of accessing emergency health services for 80% of its clients.

THE PLEDGE

**Shelter Tasmania calls upon candidates to commit to:
Provide ongoing funding for vital homelessness services in Tasmania.**

People in Supported Accommodation by Region



MORE INFORMATION

Shelter Tasmania Inc. | www.shelertas.org.au
Homelessness Australia | www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au
Australian Homelessness Clearing House | www.homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au

SOURCES

- ⁱ NATSEM, "Geographical Analysis of the Risk of Homelessness" National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra, 2013.
ⁱⁱ Homelessness refers to individuals or families living without secure and/or stable housing, therefore may include those living in a range of temporary dwellings (caravans, tents), without a dwelling of any sort, as well as in emergency accommodation, boarding rooms, and couch surfing (ABS Information Paper: A Statistical Definition of Homelessness, 2012).
ⁱⁱⁱ ABS. Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2011, Fig.1.2.
^{iv} http://www.budget.gov.au/2013-14/content/myefo/html/09_attachment_e_annex_a-02.htm#A5
^v Tasmanian Audit Office Report, p42.
^{vi} Ibid p29.



Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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