

Homelessness

What is homelessness?

There are three kinds of homelessness defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

Primary Homelessness — people without conventional accommodation, such as living on the streets, sleeping in parks, squats, cars or makeshift dwellings

Secondary Homelessness — people who move frequently between various forms of temporary shelter (friends/hostels/boarding houses/emergency accommodation)

Tertiary Homelessness — people in marginal accommodation who live in single rooms (private boarding houses/rooming houses) without their own kitchen, bathroom or security of tenure — on a medium to long-term basis

Homelessness — the facts

Nationally

Figures from the *Counting the Homeless 2006: South Australia* report released in July 2009 show that the homeless population in Australia was 105,000. The breakdown of these was

- Single person household: 76%
- Couple only household: 14%
- Family with children: 10%

South Australia

On census night in 2006, 8000 South Australians were homeless. This is an increase of 400 on the 2001 census. Approximately 850 people sleep rough in SA every night, and families with children are the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness. Forty-two per cent of South Australians experiencing homelessness are aged 18 years or less and almost 11% of the homeless population were indigenous.

Our Position Statement

Anglicare SA acknowledges and actively promotes the right of all people to safe, affordable and secure accommodation which is appropriate to their needs and circumstances. The prevention of homelessness through the provision of social housing options, intervention to prevent eviction and support for people to maintain or secure accommodation are central planks of Anglicare's response to upholding this right

Who does Anglicare help

- People about to be evicted
- People with no current address
- People with severe financial difficulties, suffering from poverty
- People with mental disabilities
- People with drug and alcohol abuse problems
- People who have endured some forms of domestic violence
- People enduring the breakdown of a relationship
- People released from prison

Housing portfolio priorities: Anglicare has identified eight priorities for its **Housing** portfolio including the extension of our housing advisory and information service, extending assistance to those in insecure/unstable housing, increasing our social housing stock and providing more affordable rental opportunities for financially disadvantaged older people. We aim to both prevent homelessness and to assist those who are in crisis.

Anglicare and Advocacy

Anglicare SA speaks out on issues affecting homeless people through participation in the following organisations:

- Member, Homelessness SA
- Member, Shelter SA www.sheltersa.asn.au

“Homelessness is more than just houselessness...”

Lynn Arnold AO
Chief Executive, Anglicare SA

How does Anglicare help?

Anglicare assists people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through:

TIAS —Tenants' Information and Advocacy Service

tel 8305 9459

Tenants Information and Advocacy Service is a statewide service for people on low incomes. The service assists people at risk of homelessness and eviction, and provides free and independent information, advice and advocacy. TIAS acts on behalf of residents for things like: appeals, bond assistance, complaints, financial counselling, debt, eviction, extra persons, home purchase, housing applications, maintenance, membership issues, relocation, transfers and waiting lists.

Northern Homelessness Program, tel 8209 5400

Provide short, medium and long term supported accommodation for homeless families and individuals in the Salisbury, Playford, Gawler, Tea Tree Gully and Barossa areas. During a client's stay in supported accommodation, the service provides appropriate counselling and/or support according to client need. Anyone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless can access the service.

Laura and Alfred West Cottage Homes, tel 8209 5439

Offers affordable housing throughout the metropolitan area for those over 55 years old. This is an independent organisation for which Anglicare provides administration and management support.

Intensive Tenancy Support (ITS), tel 8209 5460

The ITS program helps individuals and families who are at risk of eviction or homelessness. The ITS program is

available if you are a tenant of the SA Housing Trust, in private rental, or community housing. It is free and confidential.

Anglicare SA Housing Association, tel 8209 5430

Provides a range of family homes to low income renters, with housing spread throughout the metropolitan area. Rent is subsidised.

Aged Pensioner Independent Homes, tel 8209 5720

APIH provides affordable housing throughout the metropolitan area, for people on low income who are aged over 55, and young people with disabilities.

Reconnect, tel 8209 5400

Reconnect provides a range of services to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. It aims to improve the level of engagement between the young people and their family, work, education, training and the community. Reconnect is available for young people aged between 12-18 years of age who are at risk of homelessness and their families.

Community Outreach programs, tel 8269 8700

Provide one on one and group support from the north to the south of Adelaide to those dealing with mental illness, disability (primarily acquired brain injury), alcohol and other drug mis-use or a combination of these. Services include assistance to find and retain accommodation, social engagement, life-skills development, personal care and at times crisis management.

Anglicare's Emergency Assistance centres can also direct people to services if they are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- Salisbury Old Rectory (1800 773 277, Salisbury Old Rectory, 9 Mary St, Salisbury 5112)
- Elizabeth Mission (1800 061 551, 91-93 Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth 5112)
- St Hilary's, Morphett Vale (8392 3180, 1 William Street, Morphett Vale 5162)
- The Magdalene Centre, City (8305 9389, 42 Carrington Street, Adelaide SA 5000)

How you can help?

- Through donations: monetary, food, clothing, household items
- Volunteering to help in emergency assistance centres
- Purchase products through the Magdalene Centre's Backyard Gift Catalogue
- If you are interested in becoming involved in Anglicare SA's advocacy work, contact us

Sources

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Counting the homeless 2006: South Australia*. 9 July 2009; ISBN-13 978 1 74024 916 4; AIHW cat. no. HOU 206. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10757>
Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Counting the homeless 2006*. September 4 2008, ABS Catalogue No. 2050.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS>

ANGLICARE
HOPE IS HERE. SA.

Anglicare fact sheets may be reproduced or quoted with permission.

For more information

Contact Jacqui

18 King William Rd, North Adelaide, SA, 5006

Tel 8305 9281 advocacy@anglicare-sa.org.au www.anglicare-sa.org.au