



## National Homelessness Week

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Homelessness Week, 5 - 11 August 2024, coordinated by Homelessness Australia, is held every August. It seeks to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness in Australia via national and local community events, including providing information on the importance of housing as a solution and educating communities on how they can make a difference.

Homelessness Week offers The Salvation Army (TSA) a platform to raise awareness around people experiencing homelessness and the support available, and to engage with the community to care about the issue and advocate for solutions.

## The Salvation Army Australia and homelessness

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The Salvation Army is the largest provider of homelessness services across the country. We provide specialist services to adults, young people, and families with accompanying children. These services are distributed widely across metropolitan, regional, rural, and remote locations throughout every state and territory in Australia.

Our services include accommodation, case management and support, assertive outreach, and financial assistance, together with connection and referral to other specialist services.

Homelessness Stream programs and services partner with many other organisations to provide a better-targeted, coordinated, or more appropriate service to specific groups. Through the Local Mission Delivery networks, we work in collaboration with other Salvation Army mission expressions to expand our reach and deepen our impact in support of those in need.

TSA's Homelessness Stream contains many services targeted to meet the needs of specific groups of people at higher risk of homelessness (such as veterans, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recently arrived migrants and refugees, and people exiting custodial settings), or those for whom the impact of experiences of homelessness is amplified (such as people over 55 years and accompanying children).

TSA engage with Homelessness Australia's annual Homelessness Week campaign to play our role in improving Australians' understanding of homelessness and to showcase the services/support TSA offers.

The (TSA) Homelessness Week campaign aims to address and support the organisational mission of sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Building healthy communities - by creating awareness of The Salvation Army's work with people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, we demonstrate how The Salvation Army is at work in local communities and how many people who receive support go on to help others in their communities.
- Caring for people - providing clear pathways to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Working for justice - highlighting Salvation Army work and messaging around housing as a human right, rights-based approaches to ending homelessness, and addressing the structural barriers to housing. We also highlight practical solutions and care to bring equity and justice to individuals and families in need.



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- Creating faith pathways – some transformational stories of people supported by The Salvation Army (TSA) include faith elements. These stories highlight The Salvation Army as a faith-based movement, where our call-to-action (CTA) includes finding their local Salvos church.

The campaign also aligns with our organisational strategic priorities to have a strong voice on national issues and to grow partnerships with other organisations with a similar focus.

Some key TSA statistics from 2022-23





Our approach to homelessness in Australia

The following guiding statements outline our approach to homelessness in Australia.

1	Ending homelessness is possible
2	Safe, secure, and affordable housing is a human right
3	Homelessness is everybody's business
4	Services uphold dignity and self-esteem and recognise the intrinsic value of human life
5	Homelessness can affect anyone; its impacts are far reaching and long lasting
6	Homelessness in Australia is a result of systemic and structural failures or inadequacies
7	The voices of people with lived experience should inform all that we do
8	Housing and support services must be accessible and tailored

What can **you** do?

The Salvation Army believes in good for Australia – and that means seeing everyone living in a safe, secure, and affordable home. This Homelessness Week, we are calling people to learn more about homelessness and how we can end homelessness – for good.

A great way to engage more deeply in the issues of the current housing crisis and homelessness is to:

**Join the Everybody's Home campaign.** Everybody's Home is a national campaign to address the housing crisis. It was launched in 2018 by a coalition of housing, homelessness, and welfare organisations to achieve the change needed so everybody has a safe and decent place to live. The Salvation Army is a public supporter of the campaign.

By joining as an individual, you will have access to emerging research and expert commentary on progress of the housing crisis and opportunities to get involved such as surveys and writing to your local member of parliament.

Join the Everybody's Home campaign here: <https://everybodyshome.com.au/join-the-campaign/>

**Write to your local member of parliament** in relation to the issue of homelessness, and the housing crisis.

**Join a local community action group** working towards providing solutions to people experiencing homelessness in their local communities.

**Visit National and State Homelessness and Housing peak body websites** to learn more about the issue of homelessness and ways in which you can participate in various activities during National Homelessness Week and throughout the year.



### Further information

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The Salvation Army Australia produces research, reports, and a variety of submissions and position papers related to homelessness in Australia.

Many of these will be available through the Homelessness Toolkit [Homelessness Toolkit](#) and the PRSJ [Policy, Research and Social Justice \(PRSJ\)](#) in Salvos Central. Further queries on content and research directions can be forwarded to the Homelessness Specialist team at [nationalhomelessnessstream@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:nationalhomelessnessstream@salvationarmy.org.au).