



## Fact Sheet

### Homelessness in Our Own Backyard



#### GUESTS:

**Rudy Gonzalez** – Rudy is the founding Executive Director of Lighthouse Institute, an organisational knowledge base that educates practitioners on the best methods of therapy for those who have gone through trauma. He has a wealth of experience regarding youth homelessness and founded the Institute as a means of developing a strong evidence and information base regarding the best practices and approaches to break the cycle. He has also worked as a family counsellor, in a private practice with children, youth and families, and in a therapeutic community with male violent offenders.

**Tony Keenan** – Tony is Hanover’s Chief Executive Officer, and the Chairperson of the Australian Foyer Foundation, a not for profit organisation that promotes the development of youth foyers as a means to re-engage homeless youth with education and employment. Over the years, he has sat on many committees and has held many positions involved with the development of youth, and their wellbeing.

#### INTERESTING FACTS:

- On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless
- There are currently 105,237 people in Australia who are homeless
- The rate of homelessness (which takes into account population density) is 49 out of every 10,000 people (0.5% of the population)
- 56% of the homeless population are male, with 44% being female
- 60% of Australia’s homeless population is aged 34 or younger
- 39% of homeless people reside in “severely” overcrowded dwellings
- Since 2006, the ACT, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales have recorded the highest



## Fact Sheet

homelessness rate amongst the population with 70.6%, 32.9%, 20.7% and 20.4% respectively. Conversely, the Northern Territory and Queensland are the two states to have had their homeless rate decrease since 2006 (7.8% and 5.1% respectively).

- 30% of the homeless population were born overseas, and 25% are indigenous.
- Being homeless does not necessarily equate to a person living on the street; living in temporary accommodation is also considered (caravan, squat, boarding house).
- Homelessness can affect anyone you know. With causes such as domestic violence, disabilities, mental illness and marriage breakdowns, there is diversity amongst those in the homeless community which means that, with no single cause, more support is needed.

**If you are caring for someone who is a transient or homeless person, or know of someone who is, the following places will be able to give you, or them, some support:**

- **Department of Human Services** - Nationwide, DHS has many initiatives and offices that can help individuals find the appropriate support that they require.  
<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>
- **St Vincent de Paul** – From WA to SA in the west to NT and QLD in the Top End, across Australia, Vinnies provides accommodation and a variety of services for single men and women, women and children, two parent families, men with children and young men and women to become homeless or at risk of homelessness. The following link outlines all their services, with state by state links to available resources:  
[http://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/National/](http://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/National/)
- **Salvation Army** – The Salvation Army have a long standing commitment to helping those in need, especially those without a home. They have branches in many cities in all states, and have compiled a list of shelters across the states which can be found here:  
<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/find-help/Homeless-emergency-accommodation/>
- Also, most capital cities and state governments have initiatives in place where people can go to find accommodation.

### USEFUL WEB LINKS:

Lighthouse Foundation – [www.lighthousefoundation.org.au](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org.au)

Lighthouse Institute – [www.lighthouseinstitute.org.au](http://www.lighthouseinstitute.org.au)

Hanover (Melbourne based) – [www.hanover.org.au](http://www.hanover.org.au)

Melbourne City Mission - <http://www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Homelessness-Services>

### REFERENCE:

Statistics in this fact sheet were provided by Homeless Australia -

<http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/index.php/about-homelessness/homeless-statistics>



## Fact Sheet

Added information courtesy of the Salvation Army.