



Housing ends homelessness

Homelessness Week: Mon 2–Sun 8 August 2021

shelertas.org.au
#HW2021



Shelter Tas MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9am MONDAY 2 AUGUST

Homelessness Week is a national event held each year during the first week of August, which aims to raise awareness of people experiencing homelessness, the issues they face and the actions needed to achieve enduring solutions. The theme for Homelessness Week 2021 in Tasmania is *Housing Ends Homelessness*. Shelter Tas also supports Homelessness Australia’s national theme of *Everybody Needs a Home*.

“Too many Tasmanians are facing the cold reality of homelessness this winter. Homelessness Week is more than just another week on the calendar, it can make a real difference to vulnerable Tasmanians, as well as improving community awareness and highlighting the work that homelessness services do every day,” Shelter Tas CEO, Pattie Chugg said.

The 2016 Australian Census showed that on any given night in Tasmania over 1 600 people were homeless. This could mean staying on the couch or floor in someone else’s home, sleeping on the streets, or struggling to get by in insecure, overcrowded or inappropriate accommodation.

“As we learn to live with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the need to reduce and eliminate homelessness in Tasmania remains an urgent priority,” Ms Chugg said.

There are a wide range of activities and events scheduled for Homelessness Week 2021 right around the State, and many ways that people can be involved and contribute. Shelter Tas has co-ordinated the Tasmanian calendar of events again this year. The following list provides a summary, and you can see the full events calendar with more details at www.shelertas.org.au. Remember to check the website for any last-minute updates!

Single Day Events in Homelessness Week		
Mon 2 nd August, from 9:30am	Minister’s official welcome to HW 2021	online
Mon 2 nd August, 10:30 - 12:30	CatholicCare HW Morning Tea	Launceston
Mon 2 nd August, 10:00 – 2:00	Anglicare Housing Connect Information	Meadow Mews, Launceston
Mon 2 nd August, 11:00 - 12:15	Homelessness Week National Launch	online
Tues 3 rd August 7:30 - 8:30	Vinnies Breakfast	Queens Domain, Hobart
Tues 3 rd August 10:00 – 11:30	Homelessness in Clarence	Rosny Library
Tues 3 rd August 12:00 – 2:00	Unlocking the Door to Home	Clarence City Council lawns
Tues 3 rd August 2:00 - 3:00	Launch of ‘Hobart Helps’ card	Mawson Pl, Hobart
Tues 3 rd August 2:00 - 3:00	‘I am Somebody’ exhibition opening	Mawson Pl, Hobart



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Wed 4 th August 10:00 – 4:02:00	Anglicare Housing Connect Information	Prospect Vale
Wed 4 th August 2:00 – 4:00	Anglicare Housing Connect information and outreach	George Town Neighbourhood House
Wed 4 th August 2:00 – 4:00	Children’s Homelessness Forum	Town Hall, Hobart
Thurs 5 th August 9:00 – 12:00	Palliative Care Homelessness Forum	Town Hall, Hobart
Thurs 5 th August 10:00 – 2:00	Anglicare Housing Connect Information	Civic Square, Launceston
Thurs 5 th August 10:30 – 2:30	HW information event	Civic Square, Launceston
Fri 6 th August 7:30 – 9:00	Salvos Breakfast New Norfolk	New Norfolk Rowing Club
Fri 6 th August 10:00 – 1:00	Kingston Neighbourhood House event	Kingston
Fri 6 th August 12:30	Homes for All – event launch	Mathers House
Fri 6 th August 12:30 – 3:00	YFCC Homelessness Week luncheon	Devonport
Events Running 2-8 August, and Beyond		
Tues 27 th July – Tues 3 rd Aug	Homes for All – education program	Various locations
1 – 31 August	Action August	Glenorchy Council Chambers
2 – 8 August	Hats for Homelessness	Various locations
2 – 8 August	‘Everybody needs a home’ sessions	Burnie
2 – 8 August	Distribution of HW brochure	Launceston Women’s Shelter
4 – 6 August	‘I am Somebody’ exhibition	Mawson Pl, Hobart
12 – 13 August	Salvos Sleepout	Hobart
21 – 22 August	Salvos Couch Wars	Hobart
For more information on all these events, go to shelertas.org.au/homelessness-week-2021		

“Homelessness Week is an opportunity to focus on the wide range of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Tasmania and around the country. In the last 12 months, our 50 Specialist Homelessness Services supported over 6 400 clients. On any given day, agencies were supporting almost 2 000 people. Of those receiving assistance and support, almost 500 were young people aged between 15 and 24, and 203 were children in families. Housing Connect received over 40 000 inquiries for housing and homelessness information and assistance,” Ms Chugg said.

“More concerning is that each day in Tasmania, there were on average 36 requests for assistance that homelessness crisis services and emergency shelters were unable to meet. This number has increased from 31 unassisted requests each day in the previous year,” Ms Chugg said.



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“Homelessness is far more common than people think. Of the 1 600 people counted in the last Census, only 8% were sleeping rough. We need to consider the remaining 92% of people who are unseen and rarely thought about, who are living in insecure, temporary, overcrowded and unsafe places,” Ms Chugg said.

There has been an overall rise in homelessness in recent years, but this increase in numbers can be seen particularly amongst women aged over 55. Julie’s story is just one of many similar experiences.

When Julie’s husband died, she couldn’t keep up with the rent on a single income. Julie couldn’t find a cheaper place to rent, so she was sleeping in other people’s houses, on floors and couches. Mostly she only had a few nights before people asked her to leave, so she had to find somewhere else to go. Sometimes, Julie was desperate enough to sleep in her car. Julie has finally found a place in community housing where she pays a rent she can afford.

“Over 120 000 Tasmanians live below the poverty line, and 8 000 households are living in housing stress. Homelessness affects all age groups, especially younger and older members of our community – people just like Julie,” Ms Chugg said.

Shelter Tas has joined this year’s national [Everybody’s Home](#) campaign, calling for more homes to be built for women and children fleeing family violence situations. ‘Nowhere to Go’, a new report commissioned by *Everybody’s Home*, found that family and domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and has analysed the benefits of providing long term social housing to victims of family violence.

“We know that 1/3 of requests to homelessness services in Tasmania involve family violence. Access to safe and secure housing will allow women to rebuild their lives and protect their children, which is why Shelter Tas supports the findings of this new report, as well as the *Everybody’s Home* campaign [petition](#), calling on the Prime Minister to make an urgent investment in social housing to support women and children,” Ms Chugg said.

Homelessness Week 2021 events include the **national launch for Homelessness Week**, fundraising, forums, exhibitions, breakfast events, lunches and opportunities right across Tasmania to discuss homelessness and how the community can help.

Everyone can support Homelessness Week on social media by using the hashtags **#HW2021** and **#housingendshomelessness**

For more information, see <https://shelertas.org.au/homelessness-week-2021/>

Pattie Chugg, Shelter Tas CEO **available for interviews from 9am Monday 2 August**

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