

Swags for Homeless overview

TONIGHT:

Over 16,375 Australians will sleep on the streets, under bridges & worse.

(There are over 104,600 homeless people in Australia - 2006 ABS Census)

Our crisis solution - for not enough shelters:

One Backpack Bed to every street sleeping homeless man, women & child in Australia. Distributed by charities - free for homeless.

Swags For Homeless Ltd.

- non-profit company registered with ASIC (audited annually)
- donations over \$2 Tax Deductible
- Professional board and volunteers

Our specially made for homeless "Backpack Bed" (swag) provides immediate:

- emergency relief crisis bedding - when turned away from shelters
- warm dry bed - waterproof, anti-mildew treated
- dignity, compassion, reduces desperation crime
- portability looks like a Backpack - but turns into a bed
- healthier homeless - saves lives

Backpack + Bed in ONE



Why a Backpack Bed (swag)?

This Australian icon provides warmth and comfort to:

improve the living conditions and health of the homeless.

support the homeless by showing that people do care.

dignify the homeless by giving them basics - something to sleep and keep warm in.

Why Help the Homeless?

In the last five years there has been a 30% increase in the number of families with children seeking shelter from homeless services (St Vincent de Paul Society). Many people fall through the cracks and many do not ask for help.

NOT ENOUGH EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd recently highlighted that some shelters turn away 80-90% of clients (ABC 7:30 Report Nov 07).

Turned away and given nothing.

Homeless people need to stay warm and dry at night - Swags for Homeless meets this need by giving them a FREE swag.

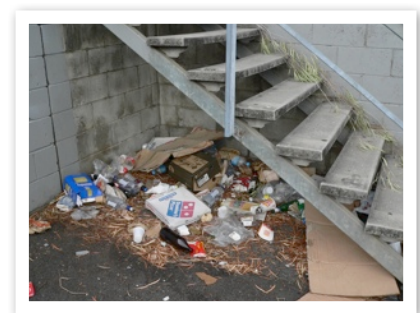
Where are the Homeless?

Homeless are in all cities and towns in Australia - not just the BIG cities.

Who are the Homeless?

Individuals & families living in accommodation which falls below general community standards:

- detrimental to physical and mental well-being
- no access to personal amenities
- no security, privacy and autonomy



Sleep out in Brisbane

Where do they sleep?

- on the streets, parks, alleys
- squatting in abandoned buildings
- in a car, under bridges / stadiums
- with friends or extended family
- emergency accommodation / youth refuges
- boarding house, caravan park or hotel



How many are Homeless? (2006 ABS Census)

There are over **104,676** homeless people in Australia:

• <u>TONIGHT sleeping in alleys, parks, playgrounds, abandoned buildings</u>	16,375
• Boarding houses	21,596
• SAAP (Supported Accommodation Assistance Program) accommodation	19,849
• Friends & Relatives	46,856

How did they become homeless?

- Family violence - incest, rape, sexual abuse, assault, stand-over
- Relationship breakdown
- Periods of mental illness
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Unemployment / Financial problems / Eviction

Facts (RMIT Melbourne Study)

- 49% of the overall homeless population, and 62% of long-term homeless, have slept rough
- Of those homeless people with a substance abuse problem, two-thirds developed the problem after they became homeless
- Of those homeless people who had mental health problems, half had developed the mental health problems after they became homeless
- Most homeless people have had more than one experience of homelessness



Cost of Homelessness

- People without basic goods (eg. swags) will be driven to petty crime
- Some will be forced into sexual exploitation
- Homelessness can lead to various forms of substance abuse, mental illness & addiction
- Sleeping on the streets can cause health issues
- All of which promotes a wide array of anti-social behavior . . . involving substantial problems and costs for our community

How you can help?

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Swags are an Australian icon.

Let's show that Australians do care for Australia's most needy!

How needy do they have to be . . . they sleep on the street. Mercy.

For more information please contact:

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**Swags for Homeless
is not Government
funded. Please join
our national effort.**

“We believe every rough sleeper in Melbourne and Australia should have access to this form of humane crisis bedding ... and made available at crisis accommodation services across the country”

St. Vincent de Paul

“As an interim support measure, the provision of warm, waterproof bedding becomes important and we appreciate being able to provide people with your well designed swags.”

Salvation Army