



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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Homeless Persons' Week asks "Where Do They Go?" - if you are homeless and missing

Homelessness Australia is proud to announce National Homeless Persons' Week (HPW) August 2 – 8, 2009 will be jointly launched with National Missing Persons Week. Each national week is held in the first week of August. This is the first time they have been launched together.

This collaboration asks *Where Do They Go?* if you are experiencing homelessness and are missing: a combination of these two hardships commonly affecting young people and seniors.

Simon Smith from Homelessness Australia said that "There is definitely some overlap in people using homeless services and being listed as missing. For example, 76, 000 people who receive homeless support are children under 15 while 20,000 people who are missing are under they age of 18."

"In our campaign for HPW the question *Where Do They Go?* addresses the variety of places people find themselves when homeless and missing. These locations can be caravans, shelters and parks where anonymity is easy to maintain," said Mr Smith.

On Monday August 3 there will be a co-launch with Homelessness Australia and the Australian Federal Police's (AFP) Missing Persons Week. During the week events will be held Australia wide to acknowledge HPW.

A key publication based on Homelessness Australia's recent tour in Alice Springs highlighting Indigenous Australian's and homelessness, is also due to be released during the week.

Homelessness Australia has comprehensive packs and other information on HPW on our website, www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

For further information and comment:

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