



Homelessness Australia

*Creating a framework for ending homelessness*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **National Homeless Persons' Week launches: Where Do They Go? with Homelessness Australia sharing some answers.**

Today at the launch of National Homeless Persons' Week Narelle Clay, Chairperson of Homelessness Australia will tell you that 105,000 fellow Australians will tonight sleep in sheds, tents, parks, garages, caravans and shelters.

Narelle Clay said, 'Homelessness Australia welcomes the Commonwealth Government's White Paper and we are eagerly awaiting the new strategies and resources to be implemented so that we can start to work on reducing homelessness'.

Some of the people who are homeless are also listed as missing persons and are isolated from family and friends. Some people who are missing end up homeless and their families and friends experience great loss and stress.

Today on August 3, Homelessness Australia will stand alongside the Australian Federal Police in launching National Missing Persons Week in partnership with National Homeless Persons' Week. This partnership emphasises that experiencing homelessness or being a missing person has the potential to affect any of us, particularly those affected by dementia or memory loss, which this year is the focus for National Missing Persons Week.

"For the first time this year we are co-launching National Missing Persons Week with Homeless Persons Week to draw attention to the links between these two social issues. Specifically, the AFP aims to raise awareness of the risks of going missing that are associated with dementia, namely memory loss and wandering. It's a growing area of concern as Australia's population ages." Acting Commissioner Tony Negus said. "Out of the 35,000 people reported missing to police each year in Australia, a high percentage are older people with dementia."

"Homelessness Australia's Homeless Persons' Week is a great opportunity to learn more about the current homelessness situation. People can do this by going onto our website for information on events countrywide, to read the latest reports and facts sheets, or becoming a member to do more towards creating a framework for ending homelessness", said Executive Officer, Simon Smith.

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Narelle Clay, Chairperson  
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Homelessness Australia National Homeless Persons' Week: [www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au)  
Missing Persons: [www.missingpersons.gov.au](http://www.missingpersons.gov.au)