

Homelessness Australia is the national peak body advocating for people experiencing homelessness and those who provide services to them.

Homelessness Australia seeks to improve community awareness and understanding of the issues facing the 1 in every 200 Australian who are homeless. We advocate for people experiencing homelessness, represent the interests of more than 1300 homelessness assistance services, and contribute to policy development and the evaluation of Australia's homelessness service system.

To achieve these objectives, Homelessness Australia works collaboratively with homeless people's organisations, homeless services, State homelessness peak bodies, other community sector organisations, government departments, politicians, business and the broader community.

Our platform to end homelessness is based on prevention, crisis intervention and providing sustainable pathways out of homelessness.

Our Vision

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

Our Mission

To promote national policy and action to reduce homelessness and its impact on the diverse range of people it affects through proactive research, advocacy and community education.

Our Goals

Homelessness Australia aims to provide an effective national voice on homelessness and related issues by:

1. Contributing to and informing Australian government policy on homelessness and related issues
2. Increasing the Australian community's awareness and understanding of homelessness
3. Representing the homeless service sector in crucial policy processes and advocating for a wholistic policy approach.

History

In August 2007, Homelessness Australia changed its name from the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations (AFHO). The name change better reflects Homelessness Australia's role as the national peak body. The organisation was formed in 1998. Our work is supported by a number of reference groups: the Council for Homeless Persons Australia (CHPA), the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), and the Women's Services Network (WESNET). These councils continue to provide policy advice and expertise in issues affecting particular groups of people experiencing homelessness.

What is homelessness?

Every night in Australia, around 100,000 people are homeless. Many people still believe that the typical homeless person is a middle aged man with a drug and alcohol problem sleeping on a park bench. The reality is very different. Half of all people who experience homelessness in Australia are under 25. Almost as many women as men are homeless

Homelessness creates instability, leaves people vulnerable to chronic unemployment and ill health, and with limited or no ability to participate in the social and economic life of their community. Homelessness means that members of our community are living without their most fundamental human rights.

Homelessness can affect the young or old, families or single people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, resulting in great social and economic costs to the individual, community, and nation as a whole.

Addressing and preventing homelessness requires improvements in a range of social policy areas including housing, income, employment, health, social security, violence and discrimination.

Lasting solutions in all of these policy areas are needed to prevent, reduce and alleviate homelessness in Australia.

Highlights for 2007-2008

In 2007 Homelessness Australia:

- Changed its name from the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations
- Brought Federal Parliamentarians together over breakfast with people experiencing homelessness at Parliament House during Homeless Persons Week
- Launched The Way Forward, our platform of national policy recommendations during the Federal Election campaign
- Worked with the Australian Electoral Commission to support voter participation of people experiencing homelessness
- Published If Only – Resourcing Responses to Homelessness, profiling stories from homelessness support agencies
- Prepared various submissions to government inquiries
- Achieved regular State and Federal media coverage
- Convened the National Homelessness Roundtable to provide strategic input into the Government's Green Paper on Homelessness
- Briefed new Rudd Government Ministers about homelessness



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME:

POSITION:

ORGANISATION:

ABN:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

SUBURB: POST CODE:

TELEPHONE: FAX:

EMAIL:

WEB:

Homelessness Australia Membership Fees for organisations are progressive and are based on the audited income for the previous financial year. You will need to identify from the table below the relevant fee for your organisation.

If you are not able to meet the fee level please contact the Homelessness Australia Office to discuss.

Estimated Income (2007-08)	GST	Fees (GST Inclusive)
Associate Membership		
Non-Government Organisations		
Under \$350,000	\$8.00	\$88.00
\$350,000 - \$600,000	\$15.50	\$170.50
\$600,000 - \$1,000,000	\$22.50	\$247.50
\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	\$28.50	\$313.50
\$2,000,000 - \$4,999,999	\$40.00	\$440.00
\$5,000,000 Plus	\$60.00	\$660.00
Individuals working with homeless people	\$2.72	\$30.00
Affiliate Membership		
Corporations	\$62.50	\$687.50
State/Federal Agencies or Departments	\$62.50	\$687.50
Academics and other individuals	\$6.00	\$66.00
Low income earners (students/concession card holders)	\$1.00	\$11.00

ESTIMATE INCOME:

MEMBERSHIP FEE (ENCLOSED):

Please note payment can only be made by cheque payable to Homelessness Australia

Homelessness Australia, PO Box 603, DICKSON ACT 2602

Benefits of membership

Homelessness Australia members receive

- A strong national voice in advocacy, lobbying and policy development
- Opportunities to provide input into Homelessness Australia policies and research
- Regular forums and events to share information with others in the sector

In addition, members receive

- Discounted costs for attending forums including the biennial National Homelessness Conference
- Regular member publications including the quarterly Homelessness Australia News, the weekly e-bulletin Inform, a copy of the annual report and special publications.
- Support and coordination to participate in National Homeless Person's Week, the first week of August each year



Application for MEMBERSHIP



Homelessness Australia

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PO Box 603 Dickson ACT 2602
Tel 02 6247 7744
Fax 02 6247 1649

www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

