



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Turning the tide: more help urgently needed

New data shows that demand for specialist homeless services remains as high as ever. There was a slight increase in the last 12 months in the proportion of people being turned away.

Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found that 2 in 3 children accompanied by a parent are turned away every day from homeless services. This figure has remained more or less unchanged for the last 5 years.

“There are some significant challenges that need to be addressed as part of the new national White Paper on homelessness”, said new Homelessness Australia Chairperson Narelle Clay. “While it’s important to prevent people becoming homeless, this data shows there are people in the community who need our help right now. “People who are homeless today need a range of support – including counselling, help managing debts, help with finding work and support to access other social services like Centrelink.”

The AIHW data comes after stories earlier this week by some of our members that they have seen a six-fold increase in homeless families using their services.

“State and territory governments need to set out how they will spend their money under the homelessness white paper to support people experiencing homelessness today”, said Simon Smith, Executive Officer. “Demand for homeless services seems set to only increase as economic conditions get tougher”.

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