



# Homelessness Information Booklet



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## Purpose

The purpose of this resource is to provide Shire of Mundaring residents with information regarding the issue of homelessness as it exists in a local and national context. In addition, this document will also provide a local directory for those at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

## Understanding Homelessness

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) <sup>(1)</sup> defines homelessness as: When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

Is a dwelling that is inadequate; or

Has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or

Does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

<sup>(1)</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012). A Statistical Definition of Homelessness

According to the AIHW <sup>(2)</sup>, the three tiers of homelessness are:

### Primary Homelessness

People without conventional accommodation (living on the streets, in deserted buildings, improvised dwellings, under bridges, in parks etc.)

### Secondary Homelessness

People moving between various forms of temporary shelter including friends' houses, emergency accommodation, youth refuges, hostels and boarding houses.

### Tertiary Homelessness

People living in single rooms in private boarding houses without their own bathroom, kitchen or security of tenure.

<sup>(2)</sup> Australian Institute of Welfare (2021). Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2020-21. [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about)

Homelessness data is measured through statistics collected by the ABS and/or organisations who support those at risk or experiencing homelessness.

The 2021 ABS Census <sup>(3)</sup> reported that on any given night in Australia, there will be 122,494 people experiencing homelessness.

- 23 per cent of which were below 25 years old
- One in five identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Only 6.2 per cent were those considered to be in the 'primary' category, the vast majority were within the other two tiers

It is important to recognise that Census data is not always able to capture the full demographics of homelessness, for example, individuals facing family and domestic violence may be unable to accurately complete the census as it may pose a risk to their safety.

Over 2021 – 2022, the AIHW <sup>(2)</sup> reported that 272,700 people were supported by homelessness support services. A further 105,000 people who attempted to access support were unable to receive help due to staff shortages, accommodation or other factors. This roughly equates to 300 individuals being denied support each day.

<sup>(3)</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021). Estimating Homelessness. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <sup>(2)</sup> Australian Institute of Welfare (2021). Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2020-21. [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about)



It is known that the causes of homelessness are incredibly varied for each person experiencing homelessness. The Department of Communities published its Homelessness in Western Australia: A Review of the research and statistical evidence report <sup>(4)</sup>, which outlined the common causes present in people experiencing homelessness. These include but are not limited to:

- Trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Mental health issues
- Substance use problems
- Domestic and family violence
- Interactions with the justice system

It widely noted that trauma, substance use, and physical and mental illness often occur before, during and after periods of homelessness for individuals. Homelessness Australia's 2023 report <sup>(5)</sup> stated the following as reasons for individuals accessing support:

- 52 per cent of people had issues with housing/finances
- 28 per cent reported domestic violence
- 20 per cent reported a breakdown of a relationship or other issues

<sup>(4)</sup> Department of Communities (2018). Homelessness in Western Australia: A review of the research and statistical evidence. <sup>(5)</sup> Homelessness Australia (2023). Homelessness Facts 2023.



## Homelessness at a Local Level

Shire of Mundaring is a local government authority spanning 644 kmsq from Midvale to Malmalling. With a population of 40,498 <sup>(6)</sup> it is fair to suggest that the amount of people experiencing homelessness is relatively small compared to other local government areas. According to the 2021 Census <sup>(3)</sup>, the reported number of people within the shire experiencing homelessness was 77 individuals. The most common living arrangements for these 77 people was people living in crowded dwellings, temporarily staying with other households and people in supported accommodation for the homeless.

People experiencing homelessness in the shire have the same rights as other residents including:

- Use of public spaces/facilities/services
- Opportunity to participate in community events and activities
- Opportunity to carry and store personal belongings

<sup>(6)</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022). Regional Population Growth. <sup>(3)</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021). Estimating Homelessness. Australian Bureau of Statistics.



## Accessing Support

If you are at risk of, or are actively experiencing homelessness, know that support is available. The first step is reaching out, there is no need to feel shame or guilt for accessing support, the support is there to be used.

## Key Support

- Emergency – Police, Fire, Ambulance (life threatening situations) | 000
- Lifeline | 13 11 14 | [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)
- 1800 RESPECT | 1800 737 732
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line | 1300 555 788
- Homeless Crisis Care: 1800 199 008
- Centrelink Midland Service Centre | 15 Keane Street, Midland | 1800 777 653





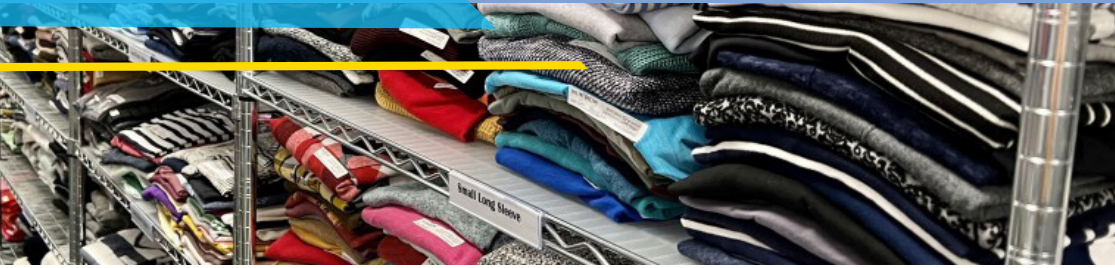


## Crisis Accommodation

- Salvation Army: 9492 7100 | [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)
- Entrypoint Perth: 1800 124 684 | [www.entripointperth.com.au](http://www.entripointperth.com.au)
- The Home Hub: [www.homehub.org.au](http://www.homehub.org.au)
- Uniting: 1300 663 298 | [www.unitingwa.org.au](http://www.unitingwa.org.au)
- Youth Futures WA: 9300 2677 | [www.youthfutureswa.com.au](http://www.youthfutureswa.com.au)
- St Bart's: 9323 5100 | [www.stbarts.org.au](http://www.stbarts.org.au)
- Zonta House (Women 18+) Crisis centre 1 6556 2430 | Crisis centre 2 6556 2402 | [www.zontahouse.org.au](http://www.zontahouse.org.au)

## Food Support

- WA Connect – Emergency relief and food access | 1800 979 777 | [www.waconnect.org.au](http://www.waconnect.org.au)
- St Vincent de Paul – Emergency Relief Assistance – blankets, clothing, food parcels, food vouchers, furniture, bedding, information and referrals | 1300 794 054
- The Salvation Army – food and groceries | 371/379 Morrison Rd, Swan View WA 6056 | 9258 9277
- Collective Hope - PCYC Midland, 11 Byers Road | 0421 196 856
- Dreambuilders Care – Community meals café, emergency relief, low cost supermarket and op shop | 336 Great Eastern Hwy, Woodbridge WA 6056 | [www.dreambuilderscare.org.au/our-services](http://www.dreambuilderscare.org.au/our-services)



## Clothing Support

- Anglicare's The Thread Together Hub | Mirrabooka Square Shopping Centre | 1300 114 446
- Dress For Success | 96 Hay Street, Perth | 9382 1003
- Street Friends WA | 0475 179 528 | 0475 175 106

## Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

- Aboriginal Family Legal Service – free legal service for those experiencing or at risk of family violence / sexual assault | 1800 469 246 / 9355 1502
- Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia | 1800 019 900 | 9265 6666 (business hours) | 9265 6644 (after hours)
- Djinda Service – free legal and non-legal support service for those experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault | 6164 0650





## Services for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Peoples

- ISHAR Multicultural Women's Health Centre | 9345 5335
- Multicultural Women's Advocacy and Support | 9328 1200
- Multicultural Services of WA | 9328 2699

Important: If you are in need of any of these services but are without the means to contact an organisation, for example, lack of mobile device or access to the internet, please reach out to Shire employees/Rangers who can make contact with the necessary organisation on your behalf. Contact Shire of Mundaring on 9290 6666.





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