

50 LIVES HOMES 50

A Campaign to house and support Hobart's most vulnerable homeless people

Taking action on homelessness in Hobart | Greater Hobart Survey Week 28th & 29th November | How to get involved

It is to our collective shame that too many people remain forgotten on our streets.

We know that Hobart's rate of primary homelessness is twice the national average.

What we don't know is who our homeless people are.

What are their circumstances and how can we work to prevent them from dying prematurely because of their homelessness and end the suffering that comes from sleeping rough and chronic homelessness?

We simply must do something to end homelessness and that is the primary objective of the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign. We want to understand more about who is sleeping on our streets and more about the problems that they face. By putting names to faces, we can then work effectively to find them housing and support options that will end their homelessness.

Greater Hobart Homelessness Survey Week Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th November 2011

Following the examples set by Common Ground Tasmania's Australian Common Ground Alliance partners in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, it is now Hobart's turn to reach out and identify the most vulnerable people sleeping rough in our city.

This ground breaking campaign, a joint initiative between Common Ground Tasmania and the Salvation Army, that aims to house 50 of Hobart's most chronically homeless people.

During Hobart's first Homelessness Survey Week, a broad range of organisations and individuals will be working together to find and survey people sleeping rough in the streets and parks of Greater Hobart and to identify their key issues and needs.

The volunteer teams will walk the streets in the early hours of the morning and visit crisis centres and, using the evidenced based Vulnerability Index (VI),* identify those people most susceptible to dying prematurely because of their experience of homelessness and/or issues related to their homelessness. A response team will then link individuals to housing, outreach and health services – one option will be Common Ground Tasmania supportive housing.

The first milestone target is to permanently house 50 vulnerable people from the register within 6 months.

The VI data will be collated to establish a base line register of Hobart's homeless people and a primary homeless worker will continue to work with them to coordinate community services, support and resources until they are housed.

This campaign is not about gathering data for research. It is about linking people surveyed to housing and other concrete options that will end their homelessness experience. Of course, completing the survey will be voluntary – ***but we really hope that we will be able to identify as many people as possible so that we can advocate for their housing and support needs and work to ensure that individual needs are met.***

*The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr Jim O'Connell of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program. His research shows certain medical conditions place a homeless person at a higher risk of dying, than others, if they remain on the streets.

How to get involved

Hobart's 50 Lives 50 Homes Campaign aims to find the 50 people in Hobart who are most at risk of premature death because of their chronic homelessness.

Teams of volunteers will go out during survey week, to find people and administer the VI survey which will assist in the assessment process.

Volunteers will work in small groups and be supported by trained team leaders and a comprehensive infrastructure to ensure the safety of all those involved and the achievement of the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign goals.

Hobart's survey week starts Monday 28th November 2011. To find out more, or to register your interest in being a part of survey week, go to www.commongroundtas.com.au and click on the 50 Lives 50 Homes link or email 50lives50homes@commongroundtas.com.au. Volunteer registrations close Friday 18th November.

Further information

www.homeground.org.au
www.micah.merivale.org.au
www.100khomes.org

Common Ground Tasmania and the Salvation Army gratefully acknowledge

- **The Tasmanian State Government**
- **The 50 Lives 50 Homes Planning Group members**, including Anglicare, Australian Retailers Association, Centacare, Centrelink, Colony 47, Hobart City Council, Housing Tasmania, Richmond Fellowship, Royal Hobart Hospital, Shelter Tasmania, Tasmania Police, University of Tasmania
- **The Australian Common Ground Alliance**

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