Youth homelessness does not discriminate.

Whenever someone’s home becomes unsafe or insecure, homelessness can be just a small step away. There might be someone in your school or on your sports team who is experiencing homelessness right now – or is just a small step away.

Many young people find themselves homeless for reasons beyond their control.

The most common causes include:

- Housing crises
- Domestic/family violence
- Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions
- Relationship/family breakdown
- Exiting custodial arrangements

In a typical week, across Australia, The Salvation Army provides:

- 2000 beds for people experiencing homelessness
- 1000 people with assistance in finding employment
- 100,000 meals for the hungry

In the 2011 census, 105,237 Australians were homeless.

Of those, 44,083 were aged 0 to 24 – that’s 42%.

Homelessness is not just rooflessness.

Homelessness includes lacking a sense of security, stability, privacy and safety.

Homelessness can include:

- Sleeping rough – on a park bench, in a train station, in a tent
- Sleeping on couches, in cars, in youth refuges
- Sleeping in overcrowded boarding houses or caravan parks

The reasons for youth homelessness aren’t what you’d expect.

If you or someone you know needs help, visit: salvos.org.au/need-help/youth-services and use our search tool to find your closest Salvation Army youth service.

24/7 Personal Support

If you’re after some advice or someone safe to talk to, here are a few numbers you can call. The best thing to do is ask for help, and you can remain anonymous:

- beyondblue – 1300 22 4636
- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800
- 1800Respect – 1800 737 732