

Share Sunday 2020-Activity

What does home mean to you?



Draw, paint, write your responses here, then SHARE
with others 😊



Share Sunday 2020 – A place to Call Home.

Some Additional Background

- On any given night, 6,000 young Victorians are homeless. Common triggers are domestic and family violence, problematic drug and alcohol use (by the young person or their parents) or relationship/family breakdown.
- Particularly high rates of homelessness have been identified for young people exiting out-of-home care.
- The transition from youth to adult independence is a time of high vulnerability to homelessness. Experiencing homelessness at a young age can affect the persons trajectory for life, increasing their likelihood of alcohol and substance abuse, poor physical and mental health, social isolation and future homelessness as an adult. Intervening early is essential.
- Victoria's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan has no dedicated strategies to address youth homelessness.
- Young people experience homelessness and engage with homelessness services in ways that are different to people of other ages. For example, young people tend to have poor knowledge of Specialist Homelessness Services, so co-locating with mainstream services where young people are already engaged strengthens accessibility for this group. Adult services such as temporary accommodation options may also be unsafe for young people.
- The last Youth Homelessness Action Plan ran between 2006 - 2010, meaning that there has been no real action on youth homelessness for almost a decade. Between 2006-2016 homelessness amongst 19- 24 year old's has increased by 66%.
- Labor MP Paul Edbrooke said recently that while there had been significant investment into tackling homelessness 'the thing we haven't done well, up until now, is addressing youth homelessness. We've got a lot to do down here.'

Join with Uniting to advocate for:

- Support to access safe, stable and affordable accommodation
- Better transition planning for children leaving care
- Employment, education and training support for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Support to maintain connection to family
- Increased funding to specialist youth homelessness services/housing and support models.

The suggested means to deliver this will be a dedicated action plan from state government though we will work with consumers and other stakeholder groups (see below) to identify other areas of direct action that could contribute to the above outcomes.

Key messages:

Our ask is that the Victorian government 'act on youth homelessness'.

- Young people are highly vulnerable when homeless
- Young people experience homelessness differently to adults and access services in different ways
- Young people don't belong in adult services
- Preventing youth homelessness and intervening quickly when it does occur protects young people from poor life outcomes

Acknowledgement

These resources have been created and compiled by Uniting for use in congregational worship and may be modified and used according to local custom with acknowledgment.