



Helping local people by getting together to give

THE ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HAVE CREATED

THE CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 4 KEY AGENCIES, TO ASSIST WITH THE COST OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

THE ISSUE

THE GREAT SOUTHERN IS FACING A HOUSING CRISIS WITH EXTREME ACCOMMODATION SHORTAGES IN OUR COMMUNITY

WHAT WE DO

THE CRISIS RESPONSE FUND (CRF) PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT VIA 4 SERVICE AGENCIES TO ASSIST PEOPLE TO GET OR KEEP A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

WHAT YOU CAN DO

DONATE TO THE CRISIS RESPONSE FUND + REFER PEOPLE TO THE 4 KEY AGENCIES TO MAKE AN APPLICATION



THE HOUSING CRISIS IS REAL

WHAT IS THE CRF ?

THE ACF HAVE CREATED THIS SEPARATE FUND IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE SEVERE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGES AND COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN. THE IMPACT ON THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY IS HEARTBREAKING.

FOUR FRONT LINE AGENCIES ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ADVANCE HOUSING AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES, WHO WILL REFER ELIGIBLE CLIENTS TO THE FOUR PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.

THE FUND APPLIES TO ANYONE WHO IS UNDER SEVERE HOUSING STRESS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE ALREADY HOMELESS, OR THEIR TENANCY IS AT RISK (OWNER OCCUPIED OR RENTING)

THE KEY AGENCIES INVOLVED

ANGLICARE WA
PIVOT SUPPORT SERVICES
ALBANY YOUTH SUPPORT ASSOCIATION
PALMERSTON

HOW TO APPLY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ACFWA.COM.AU
OR GET IN TOUCH WITH THE 4 AGENCIES

HOW TO DONATE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ACFWA.COM.AU



www.acfwa.com.au





The impact on the most vulnerable in our regional community



**566
PEOPLE**

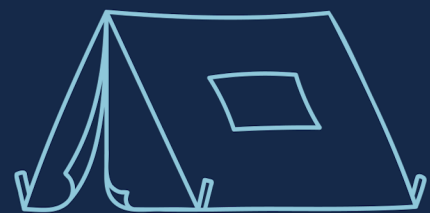
WERE ON THE WAITLIST FOR PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN IN JANUARY 2023



**THE
GREAT SOUTHERN**

EXPERIENCED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS OF ANY WA REGION.

- 2021 ABS CENSUS



331 PEOPLE

WERE CLASSIFIED AS BEING HOMELESS IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN IN THE 2021 CENSUS



www.acfwa.com.au



The reality of homelessness in the Great Southern

THROUGH THE EYES OF A LOCAL SUPPORT WORKER IN ALBANY...

HOMELESSNESS IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN IS INCREASING.

EVERY DAY I HOLD PEOPLE'S HAND INTO HOMELESSNESS AS THEY REALIZE THEIR ONLY CHOICE IS TO SLEEP ROUGH, LIVE IN THEIR CAR, A TENT, COUCH SURF BETWEEN FRIENDS AND FAMILY, OR HEAD TO PERTH TO TRY THEIR LUCK AT A SHELTER.

I OFFER TISSUES AND WATER TO PEOPLE WHO ARE SHOCKED TO COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE GREAT SOUTHERN HAS NO SHELTER TO OFFER THEM. NO YEAR-ROUND MEN'S SHELTER, NO OPEN ACCESS WOMENS SHELTER (EXCEPTING A 4-ROOM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ONLY FACILITY WHICH IS ALWAYS FULL), NO OVERFLOW CAMPING, NO RENTALS. OUR CARAVAN PARKS ARE FULL OR PRICED OUT OF THE MARKET AND DO NOT OFFER LONG TERM STAYS. THERE ARE NO ONSITE VANS OR CABINS. THERE ARE NO SHARE HOUSES.

I SEE PEOPLE WITH JOBS DESPERATE FOR A RENTAL PAYING THEIR ENTIRE INCOMES ON HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION LEAVING NOTHING LEFT FOR BASIC LIVING EXPENSES. LARGE FAMILIES LIVING OUT OF 2 CARS WHILE THEY SEARCH FOR SOMEWHERE TO UNLOAD THEIR LIFE'S BELONGINGS AND BEGIN LIVING AGAIN.

I SEE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LEAVE WORK OR DECLINE GOOD JOBS IN OUR TOWN BECAUSE THEY CANNOT GET HOUSING OR HAVE BECOME HOMELESS. I HEAR PEOPLE TELL ME ABOUT THE CHOICE BETWEEN PAYING FOR STORAGE OR PAYING FOR THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION, AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFETIME WORTH OF THINGS. PEOPLE WALKING AWAY FROM ENTIRE HOUSES FULL OF GOODS BECAUSE THEY CAN ONLY TAKE WHAT'S IN THEIR CARS.

I HEAR THE ELDERLY TELLING ME OF THE STRESS AND STRAIN THEY ARE UNDER WITH MULTIPLE FAMILY MEMBERS SQUEEZING INTO TINY UNITS MEANT FOR A SINGLE PERSON IN RETIREMENT.

I HEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ASKING ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE ROUGH SLEEPING HOMELESS BECAUSE ITS UPSETTING THEIR CUSTOMERS OR CREATING A MESS OR A SMELL. THE SAME ROUGH SLEEPERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON A HOUSING WAITLIST FOR YEARS TO BE TAKEN OFF BECAUSE THEY MISSED A PHONE CALL FROM HOUSING OR THEY DIDN'T HAVE A HOME TO RECEIVE A LETTER AT, OR BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO MENTALLY UNWELL TO SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAIN A PHONE.

WE SEE PEOPLE DISCHARGED DIRECTLY INTO HOMELESSNESS FROM HOSPITAL OR MENTAL HEALTH WITH SERIOUS ONGOING CONDITIONS WHO COME TO US FOR SUPPORT, I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER THEM BUT A SWAG OR A TOILETRY PACK (BOWS AND ARROWS AGAINST THE LIGHTNING).

WE SEE PEOPLE WITH TERMINAL ILLNESSES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS – I OFTEN WONDER IF THEY WILL BE FOUND DEAD ON THE BEACH OR IN THE BUSH ONE DAY WHERE THEY FOUND THEIR END, LONELY, SCARED AND IN PAIN.

I HEAR WOMEN TELL ME STORIES OF THE SEXUAL PREDATORS THAT ARE GROWING IN NUMBERS AND CONFIDENCE AT THE BUSH CAMPS AND FREE CAMP SITES ALONG THE COAST.

PEOPLE ARE REPORTING BEHAVIOR LIKE SIPHONING FUEL OUT OF CARS, STEALING FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS, OPENING TENTS AND SWAGS AND PERPETRATING HARASSMENT UPON THE VULNERABLE HOMELESS IN THE CAMPING SITES THAT ARE BUILDING INTO SMALL MOBILE SETTLEMENTS. WOMEN ARE REPORTING ASSAULTS.

The reality of homelessness in the Great Southern

I FEEL PEOPLE'S AGONY AS THEY ARE INFORMED THAT ACCOMMODATION SERVICES LIKE SHELTERS AND BACKPACKERS DO NOT TAKE PETS – FORCED INTO GIVING AWAY THEIR COMPANION ANIMALS PRECIPITATING LONELINESS, HOPELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH DECLINE.

I SEE FAMILIES OF 4 AND 5 PEOPLE LIVING AT THE BACKPACKERS, PARENTS SNEAKING CHILDREN INTO AGED CARE VILLAGES DESPITE THE RISK OF EVICTION FOR FAMILY RESIDENTS AND ELDERLY PEOPLE BEING EVICTED BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PAY THE HUGE RENT INCREASES AND KEEP UP WITH PAYING FOR OTHER ESSENTIALS IN LIFE.

I SEE PEOPLE SLEEPING IN SWAGS AT REST STOPS, PEOPLE IN SLEEPING BAGS IN THE BUSH AREAS BETWEEN HOMES IN LOCKYER, PEOPLE SLEEPING IN CARS LOADED WITH POSSESSIONS SO HEAVY THAT THE VEHICLE SITS LOW TO THE ROAD, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS HOMESCHOOLING CHILDREN IN THEIR CRAMPED CARS.

I HEAR COLLEAGUES INFORM PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON THAT THEIR ONLY OPTION IS TO SLEEP ROUGH IF THEY HAVE NO FAMILY SUPPORT AS WE HAVE NO ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

I HEAR CLIENTS OF OURS IN COURT ASKING MAGISTRATES FOR CUSTODIAL SENTENCES SO THEY CAN HAVE A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD AND A WARM MEAL EVERY DAY. I HEAR PRISONERS CHOOSING TO SERVE FULL SENTENCES FOR GOING PAROLE SO THEY CAN MAINTAIN A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS, I SEE PEOPLE COMMIT CRIMES SO THEY CAN GO TO PRISON WHERE THEY ARE HOUSED.

I HEAR PARENTS TELL ME HOW THEY CANNOT REUNITE WITH CHILDREN OR FULFILL FAMILY COURT OBLIGATIONS DUE TO THEIR HOMELESSNESS. PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE HOUSING WAITLIST FOR YEARS IN A CRUEL CATCH 22 SITUATION (YOU CANT GET A FAMILY HOME WITHOUT CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILDREN BUT YOU CANT GET CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILDREN WITHOUT A HOME) THAT PERPETUATES BOTH THEIRS AND THEIR CHILDREN'S TRAUMA AND DISADVANTAGE.

I HAVE SEEN FOSTER PARENTS FACED WITH GIVING UP FAMILY FOSTER CHILDREN FOR LACK OF A RENTAL OR DEPARTMENT HOME THAT FITS THEM ALL IN.

I SEE THIS HORRIBLE PHENOMENON GROWING EXPONENTIALLY OVER TIME WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BEING AFFECTED BY THE PROFOUND LACK OF HOUSING OPTIONS. I FEEL THE CRIPPLING ANGUISH THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY BECOME HOMELESS FOR THE FIRST TIME. I FEEL SHAME AND GUILT THAT WE AS A NATION CANNOT PROVIDE THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT FOR LIVING – A HOME

TODAY A 50-YEAR-OLD DISABLED WOMAN LOOKED ME IN THE EYES AND ASKED “WHEN I COME OUT OF THE MOTEL WHERE DO I GO?” AND I HAD TO TELL HER WE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER HER, NO SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, AND SHE COULD ACCESS A SWAG FROM US IF SHE NEEDED TO. ON MONDAY AT 10AM WHEN SHE MUST EXIT THE MOTEL I WILL HOLD HER HAND INTO HOMELESSNESS THEN LET HER GO WITH NOTHING MORE THAN THE HOPE THAT SHE WILL BE OK.