



Inner City Sydney

**Registry
Week
2015 Report**

Homelessness NSW



Registry Week 2015 Working Group members:

- City of Sydney
- Homelessness NSW
- Mercy Foundation
- Neami National
- The Haymarket Foundation



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A note from the Homelessness NSW CEO- Katherine McKernan

Homelessness NSW was very pleased to be part of the Working Group that co-ordinated Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 which included the City of Sydney, the Haymarket Foundation, NEAMI and the Mercy Foundation. The Working Group would like to extend thanks to the many volunteers, specialist homelessness services and people experiencing homelessness that participated in Registry Week 2015.

The dedication required by volunteers and services working together on weekends and in the early morning hours before then going on to their 'day' jobs was essential to the success of Registry Week. Registry Week was also highly reliant on the willingness of people living on the street and in services to once again tell their story. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of people and services who want to see homelessness ended in the inner city.

And it is in this collaborative and committed spirit that the Working Group is pleased to present the information gathered from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 surveys. The intention in gathering this information was to not only assist individual people experiencing homelessness surveyed by helping ensure that they access appropriate housing and support but also to assist the community and services to better understand the causes and situation of people experiencing homelessness so that homelessness can be prevented and addressed at a systemic level.

We hope that the information provided in this report can inform Government, services, researchers, the community and the media to work together to more effectively prevent and address homelessness in Inner City Sydney.

We also hope that the information provided inspires other communities to consider implementing a similar approach to better understand the housing and support needs of people experiencing homelessness in their area.

The Working Group, and Homelessness NSW in particular, is available to provide assistance to further interrogate the data provided in the report as well as provide support and advice to those who may be interested in implementing a similar approach in their community.

On behalf of the Working Group I would like to specifically acknowledge the hard work of Andrew Deuchar (City of Sydney), Digby Hughes (Homelessness NSW) and Fiona Murray (The Haymarket Foundation) in coordinating and running Registry Week. Thank you also to Janelle Kwong from Micah Projects and Chris Hartley (Homelessness NSW) for their hard work in coordinating and undertaking the data analysis and to the many others who were involved in making the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 a success.



Katherine McKernan - Homelessness NSW CEO

Executive Summary

The Inner City Sydney Registry Week was conducted from 30 November – 2 December 2015. It involved surveying 516 people experiencing homelessness who were either rough sleeping or in crisis accommodation, boarding houses or Temporary Accommodation. Registry Week was co-ordinated by the City of Sydney, Homelessness NSW, the Mercy Foundation, the Haymarket Foundation and NEAMI and involved the commitment of over 60 community volunteers, inner city Specialist Homelessness Services, DVNSW and Yfoundations and the Department of Family and Community Services.



The Community Volunteers at 4 am before going out to conduct surveys

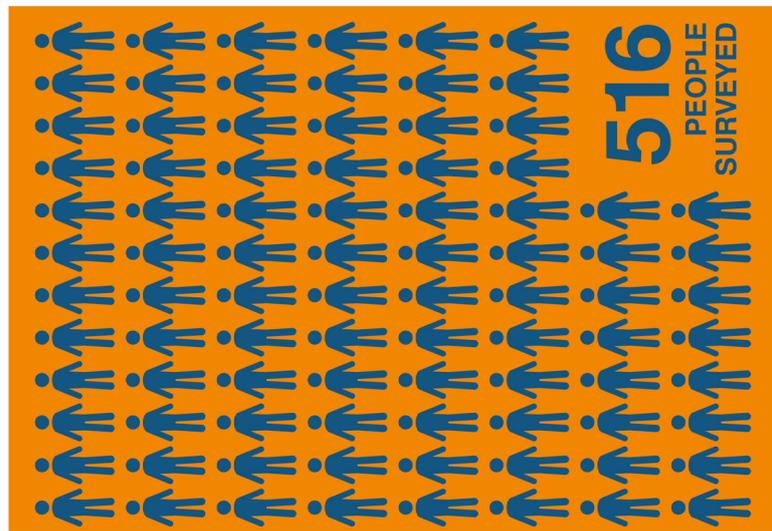
The survey was conducted using the Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) – an internationally recognised tool designed by Community Solutions and OrgCode Consulting Inc that has been used internationally (Canada and the United States) and in Brisbane, Perth and Hobart. The survey provides details of the housing, health and support needs of people experiencing homelessness and was previously conducted in Sydney in 2010. The 2016 survey is the largest survey of people experiencing homelessness to be undertaken in Australia to date. It is important to note that the survey collects information from people about their experiences of homelessness and their perspective of these experiences. This provides a rich source of information that other homelessness data collection may not provide, however, it should also be considered in conjunction with other data sources.

This report analyses the data from Registry Week 2015 and provides detail in a number of distinct homelessness categories - youth, females, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people over the age of 55 and veterans from the defence forces.

Of the 516 participants 60% (n=308) of people were currently sleeping rough, 23% (n=119) were currently residing in a Temporary or Crisis Accommodation Service, and 17% stated they were staying with friends and family or in a boarding house (n=89). In total people who participated in the Registry had 4097 interactions with the crisis service system. Only eight people who were surveyed in 2010 were again surveyed in 2015.

Of the 516 people surveyed 13% (n=70) of people just require housing they can afford with minimal if any support to be able to exit homelessness, 43% (n= 262) need short term support with housing they can afford; and 36% (n= 184) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

Homelessness in Sydney



WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS IN SYDNEY?

INCOME

of people experiencing homelessness in Sydney are living below the poverty line (less than \$400 per week)

- 100% Disability
- 35% Support Pension
- 11% Government payment
- 9% Working
- 9% Begging
- 13% No income

HISTORY

of people traumatised – emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other

- 49% have been in prison
- 53% arrested
- 65% report being a victim of violence

WHAT SUPPORT DO PEOPLE NEED?

- 14% people just need housing they can afford
- 51% need short term support with housing they can afford
- 35% require housing with intensive support

HEALTH

of people report having a brain injury

- 29% report substance abuse
- 72% report a mental health issue. Of those, 64% have both substance abuse and mental health issues

65% of people just need housing they can afford with short-term support to get them back on their feet.

WHO ARE THEY?

82% MALE
17% FEMALE
1% TRANSGENDER



WHERE DO THEY STAY? (%)



42 AVERAGE AGE

Average time on the street

5 years 4 months

73% Australian

- 17% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 10% New Zealander
- 15% Other

8% veterans

7% under 25 (youth)

15% over 55 years

35% reported having a disability

The survey is a self-reporting tool and collects information from homeless people about their experiences and their perspective of these experiences. The questions have been rigorously designed and tested to ask for information in a non-judgemental and as non-invasively as possible. Participants were able to choose whether or not they wished to answer individual questions.

The self-reporting approach provides a rich source of information that other homelessness data collection may not provide, however, it should also be considered in conjunction with other data sources.

Ethical Considerations

To ensure that participants were treated with the utmost dignity and respect, informed consent was gained from all those that chose to participate. It was explained to each participant what kind of information was being collected, how it will be collected, what it will be used for, and how it will be stored. Because informed consent cannot be obtained from individuals under 16 years of age, surveys were not conducted with under 16 year olds and a Child Protection procedure was followed. An easy English factsheet for how the personal information will be used and stored was also made available to the participants. This fact sheet also included details on how information can be accessed, changed or destroyed at the participant's convenience. The factsheet used as part of the Registry Week is provided at Appendix B.

Individuals and families that chose to participate were compensated for their time with a small cash contribution. It was explained to participants they were compensated for their time and not their information and they were advised of the option to refuse any or all of the questions asked.

The information presented in this report is de-identified and no information regarding the current location of participants is discussed. These measures were implemented to ensure the integrity of Inner City Sydney Registry Week and to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of participants.

1. Homeless in Sydney LGA

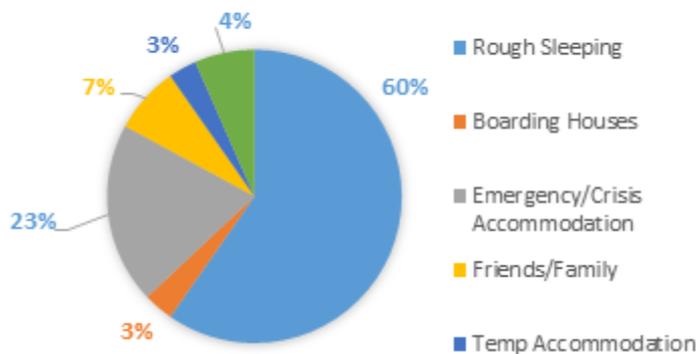
The following data represents the responses of 516 people experiencing homelessness in Sydney during the period of 30 November - 2 December 2015.

1.1 Where were people sleeping?

Data from the Registry indicates of the 516 people experiencing homelessness in Sydney the average period of homelessness is 5.3 years.

A large majority of people experiencing homelessness were currently rough sleeping (60% n=308), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Temporary or Crisis Accommodation Service (23% n=119) or with friends and family or in a boarding house (17% n=89).

Figure 1.1- Where were people sleeping?



Significantly only 8 participants surveyed in 2015 were also surveyed in 2010, indicating that while services are working effectively to house and support people once they become homeless, much reform is required to ensure other people do not become homeless and take their place.

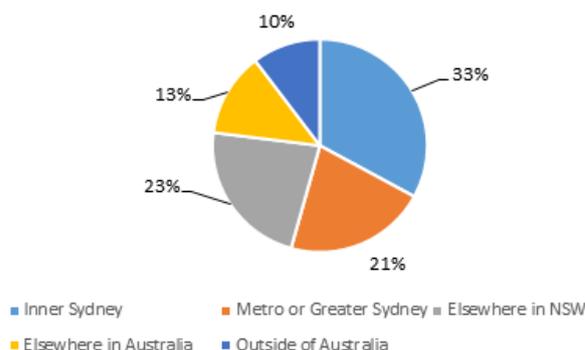
In total people who participated in the Registry had 4097 interactions with the crisis service system over the past 6 months.

1.2 Where did people live before becoming homeless?

Most participants in the Registry prior to becoming homeless were from Inner Sydney (32% n=163), with other participants previously residing in Metropolitan or Greater Sydney (21% n=106) or elsewhere in NSW (22% n=112) or elsewhere in Australia outside of NSW (n=63).

Significantly close to 10 per cent of those who participated resided outside of Australia prior to becoming homeless (10% n=51).

Figure 1.2 Where did people live before becoming homeless?



1.3 Gender, age, background and cultural identity

Participants in the Registry were predominately male (82% n=422), with 17% females (n=87) and 1% (n=5) identifying as transgender. Of the participants who detailed their sexuality, 88% (n=455) identified as straight, 4% as gay or lesbian (n=19) and 5% as bi-sexual (n=19).

The average age of participants was 42 years old. There were 35 respondents under the age of 25, of those the average age was 22 years old (see more under Youth Homelessness page 20).

Data from the Registry reveals a large proportion of participants identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people (17% n=38).

Of those who identified as non- Australian (27% n=139), the largest groups were from New Zealand (10% n=53) and from European backgrounds (5% n=25).

Also of note is that 8% (n=42) of respondents indicated that they have previously been members of the Australian Defence Force, indicating a need for greater discharge support for veterans.

Figure 1.3 Gender of participants

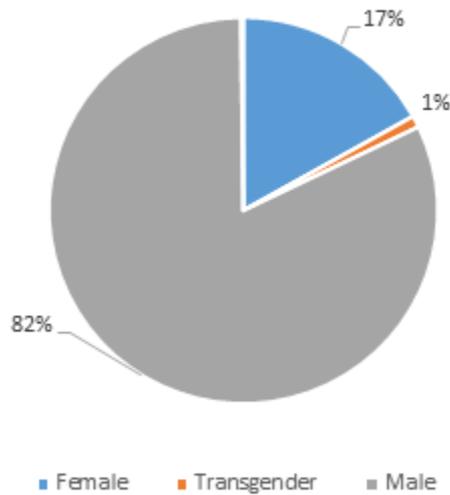
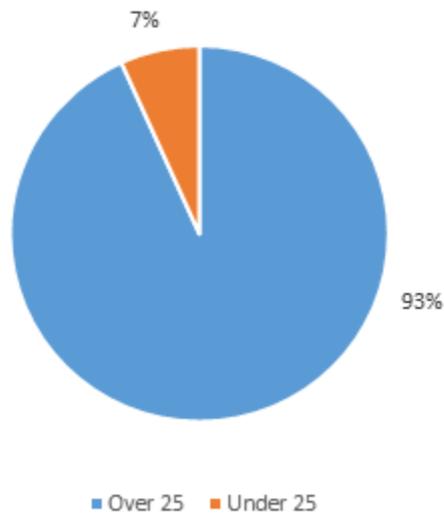


Figure 1.4 Age of Participants



1.4 Triaging

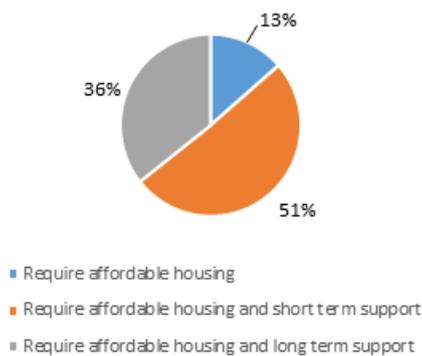
The methodology used during Registry Week generates a numerical score for each individual which, assists services with triaging the most suitable form of intervention and housing options. The higher the individuals score the greater their acuity warranting more intensive supports:

- A score of between 0-4 indicates that an individual requires housing with minimal if any support, this refers to people in poverty who can't afford to access housing without initial support;
- Between 5-9 indicates that housing and short term support, for example 12 months case management is required. This refers to people who require support to overcome multiple barriers to access housing; and
- A score of 10 or more indicates that the respondent requires housing and long term/permanent support. This refers to people who will need intensive support to access housing and sustain a tenancy.

The Registry Week data shows that of the 516 people surveyed (Figure 1.3):

- 14% (n=70) of people just require housing they can afford with minimal if any support to be able to exit homelessness;
- 51% (n= 262) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 35% (n= 184) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

Figure 1.5 Triaging



When broken down into categories of where people are currently residing, over 86% (n =79) of respondents in emergency accommodation require only housing they can afford or housing with short term assistance. In contrast, 43% (n=122) of people who are currently rough sleeping require affordable housing with long term support.

1.5 Income

The majority of participants in the Registry relied on government assistance for income, with 35% receiving a Disability Support Pension of \$782 per fortnight (n=180) and 47% on another government payment of \$520 per fortnight (n=254) and 13% receiving no income at all.

1.6 Health

Participants identified having many and multiple interactions with the NSW health system. In total participants identified over the past 6 months, 376 periods of hospitalisation, 1007 visits to the accident and emergency department and 527 trips taken in an ambulance.

Data from the Registry also highlights the ongoing mental health and substance abuse issues faced by people experiencing homelessness. Of the participants:

Physical health

- 25% reported experiencing Asthma (n=129)
- 9% reported Diabetes (n=49)
- 27% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=138)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=33)
- 12% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=58)
- 9% reported of having cancer (n=42)
- 3% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=15)
- 15% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=74)
- 16% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=82)
- 53% identified having dental problems (n=276)

Drug and alcohol use

- 36% reported using intravenous drugs (n=185)
- 37% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=193)
- 72% reported substance abuse (n=372)

Mental health and disability

- 53% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=276)
- 26% reported a diagnosis of a learning development or developmental disability (n=130)
- 29% reported having a brain injury (n=149)
- 20% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=101)

Of people with a mental illness

- 64% have both substance abuse and mental health issues (n=330)
- 47% report experiencing Tri-morbidity meaning a person is mentally ill plus abusing substances and also has a significant medical problem (n=237)

Trauma

Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 49% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse prior to become homeless. Another 34% (n=121) identified having self-harm while being homeless.

Significantly 34% (n=121) of participants reported a history of being in foster care.

1.7 Interaction with the justice system

Participants reported high levels of interaction with the criminal justice system. Over 53% of respondents indicated that they had been in prison (n=272), 65% that they had been arrested (n=335) and over 44% indicating that they had been a victim of violence while homeless.

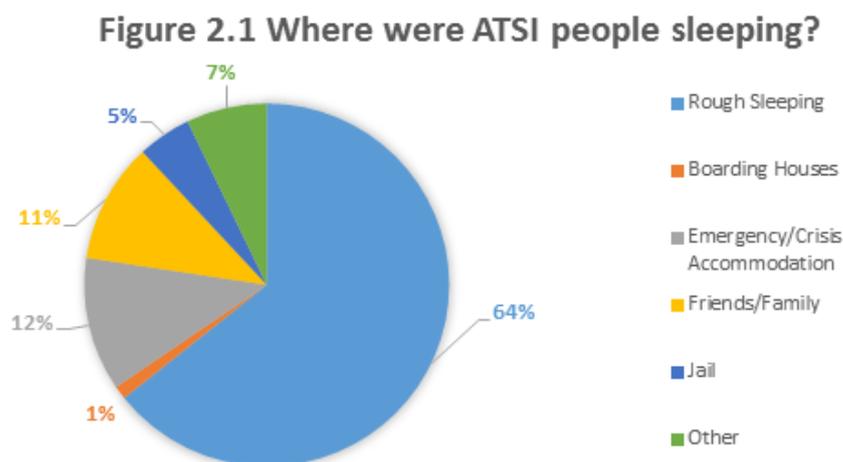
Significantly, survey respondents reported over 9,200 interactions with police in the last six months.

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Data from the Registry reveals a large proportion of participants identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (17% n=86).

2.1 Where were people sleeping?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the Registry were sleeping rough (64% n=54) or were in crisis accommodation (12% n=11) or staying with friends or family (11% n=8). A number of participants (5% n=4) identified 'jail' as being the location they slept most frequently.



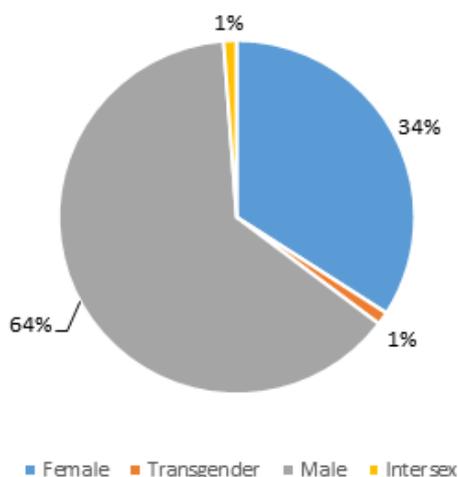
Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 7.01 years.

In total, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry had 984 interactions with the crisis service system.

2.2 Gender, age, background

A small majority of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were male (64% n=54), with females making up 34% (n=30) with less than 5 transgender and intersex identifying people.

Figure 2.2 Gender of ATSI participants



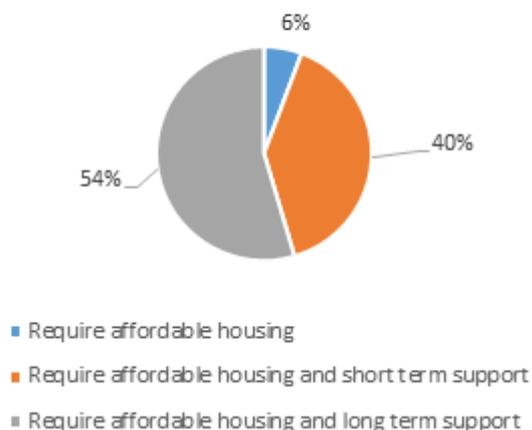
Of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry, 74 were over the age of 25 and 12 were under 25.

2.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated:

- 6% (n=5) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 40% (n=35) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 54% (n=46) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

Figure 2.3
Triaging ATSI participants



2.4 Income

The majority of participants in the Registry relied on government assistance for income, with 50% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=37) and 30% on another government payment of (n=22) with 10% identifying they begging as a source of income (n=7). (Figure 1.6).

2.5 Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry had considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 430 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 243 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance (or 2.8 trips per person).

Participants identified having many and multiple ongoing health issues including:

Physical Health

- 34% reported experiencing Asthma (n=29)
- 12% reported Diabetes (n=10)
- 42% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=36)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=6)
- 10% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=8)
- 9% reported of having cancer (n=7)
- 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=5)
- 14% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=12)
- 19% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=16)
- 61% identified having dental problems (n=52)

Drugs and Alcohol

- 54% reported using intravenous drugs (n=46)
- 54% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=46)
- 77% reported substance abuse (n=65)

Mental Health and Disability

- 42% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=36)
- 37% reported a diagnosis of a learning development or developmental disability (n=31)
- 61% reported having a brain injury (n=52)
- 23% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=19)

Trauma

Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 55% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse prior to become homeless (n=47). Another 38% (n=32) identified having self-harmed while being homeless.

A large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 25 indicated that they had left school prior to year 10 (41% n=30), while 30% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (n=28) indicated that they been in foster or institutional care as a child.

2.6 Interaction with the justice system

Participants reported high levels of interaction with the criminal justice system. Over 71% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people respondents indicated that they had been in prison (n=61), 83% that they had been arrested (n=71) and over 49% indicating that they had been a victim of violence while homeless (n=42).

Significantly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people survey respondents reported over 2,500 interactions with Police in the last six months.

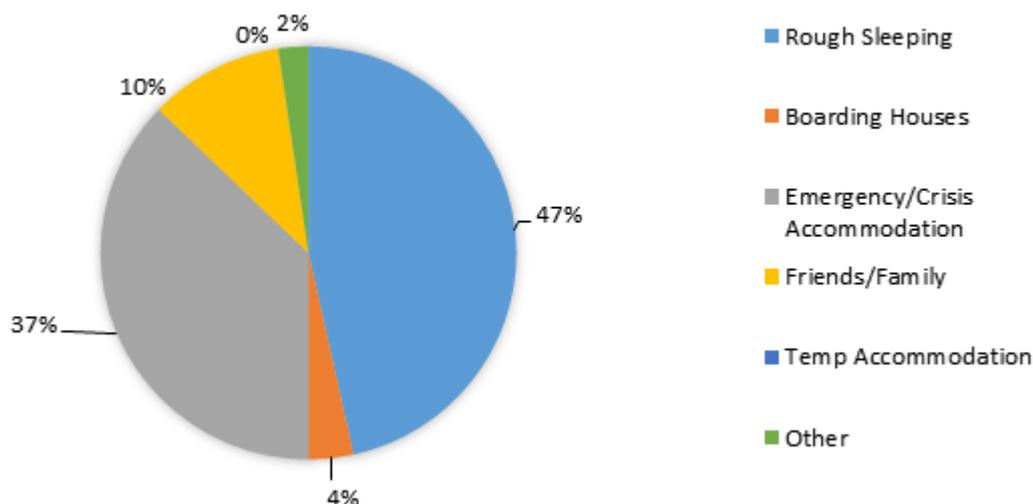
3. Females experiencing homelessness

In total 87 females experiencing homelessness participated in Registry Week.

3.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most females who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently sleeping rough (47% n=40)), with a large number of females staying in a Crisis Accommodation Service (37% n=32) or with friends and family (10% n=9).

Figure 3.1- Where were homeless women sleeping?



In total, females experiencing homeless identified 1204 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for females was 5.12 years.

3.2 Age, background and cultural identity

Of the females who experienced homelessness who participated, 73 were over the age of 25 (84%) of which 8 were aged over 55 (9%). Fourteen females were under the age of 25 (16%) and the average age of females participants was 39 years.

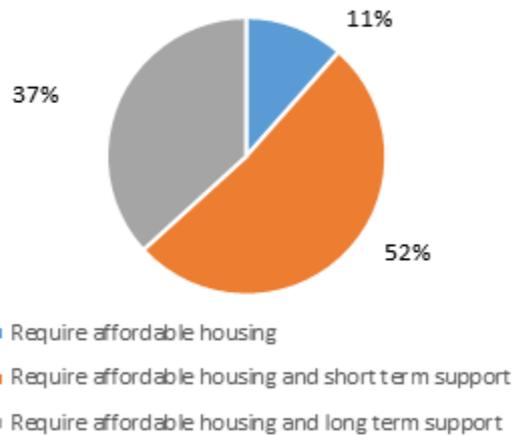
Of the female participants who detailed their sexuality, 71 identified as straight (82%), 10 as bi-sexual (12%) and 5 as lesbian (5%). Thirty females identified as being Aboriginal (35%).

3.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the females who participated in the Registry:

- 11% (n=10) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 52% (n=45) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 37% (n=32) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

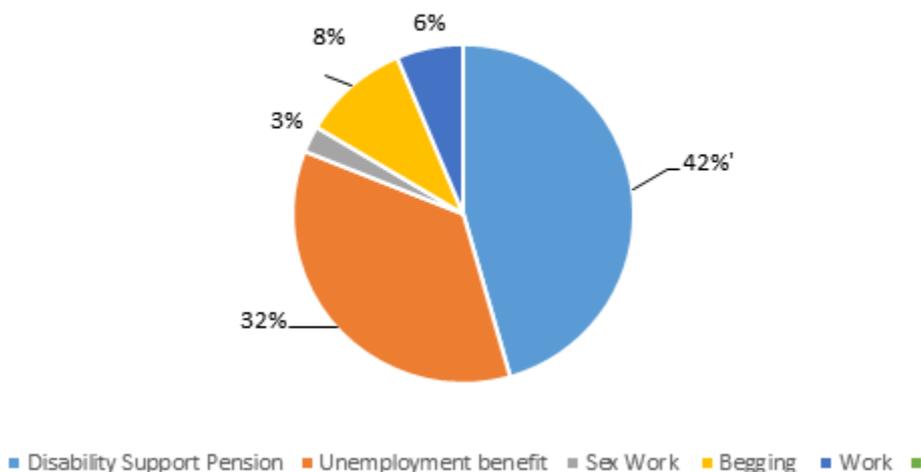
Figure 3.2 Triaging of women experiencing homelessness



3.4 Income

The majority of females relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 42% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=36) and 32% on an unemployment benefit (n=28). A number of females also relied on begging (9% n=8), employment (6% n=5) and sex work (3% n=less than 5) for income.

3.3 Income of women experiencing homelessness



3.5 Health

Females who participated in the Registry had considerable interactions with the health system including, a total of 376 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 219 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance (or 2.5 trips per person).

They also identified a multiple of health issues including:

Physical Health

- 36% reported experiencing Asthma (n=31)
- 12% reported Diabetes (n=10)
- 22% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=19)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)

- 10% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=7) and 9% of another cancer (n=9)
- 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=less than 5)
- 14% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=11)
- 19% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=22)
- 61% identified having dental problems (n=53)

Drugs and Alcohol

- 13% reported using intravenous drugs (n=23)
- 34% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=29)
- 53% reported substance abuse (n=46)

Mental health and Disability

- 52% reported a mental health issue (n=45)
- 23% reported having a brain injury (n=20)
- 22% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=19)
- 23% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=18)

Trauma

A number of participants (45% n=39) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness. In addition, 36% (n=31) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

Also of note is that 19 survey respondents or 22% of participants reported a history of being in foster care or institutional care.

3.6 Interaction with the justice system

Females experiencing homelessness had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Fifty-one percent of the young people who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=44), 13% had spent time in youth detention (n=11) and 37% had been incarcerated in prison (n=32).

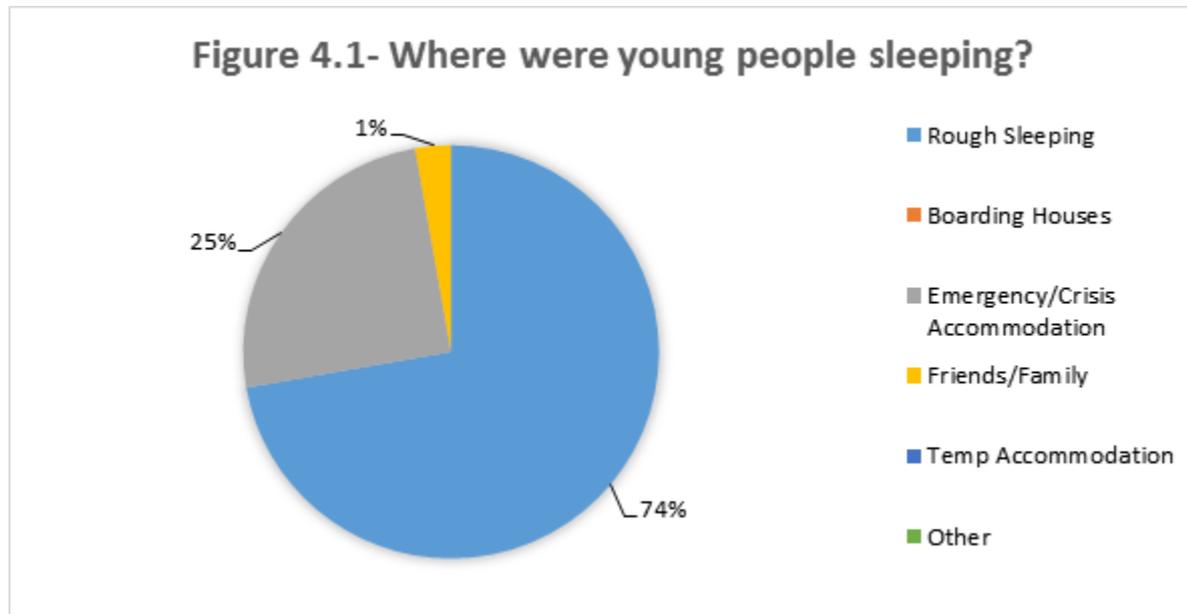
In total, the females who participated in the Registry had 1029 interactions with the police over the past 6 months (an average of 12 interactions per person).

4. Youth Homelessness

In total 35 people under the age of 25 participated in Registry Week.

4.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most of the young people experiencing homelessness who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently rough sleeping (74% n=26), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Crisis Accommodation Service (25% n=9) or with friends and family (1% n= less than 5).



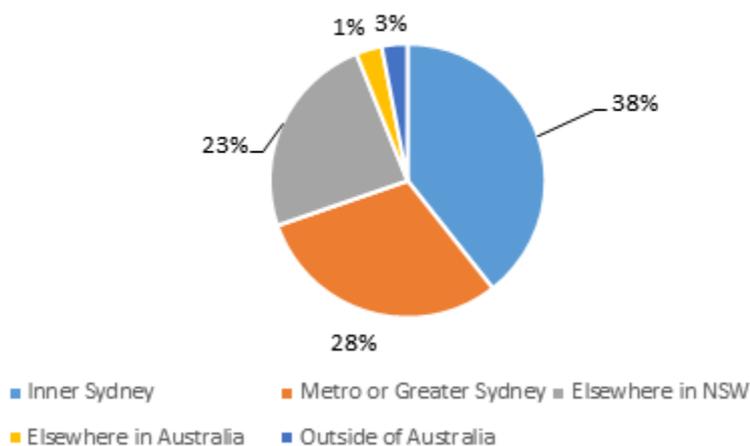
Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for young people under the age of 25 is 2.1 years.

In total, young people experiencing homeless identified 272 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

4.2 Where did people live before becoming homeless?

Most participants in the Registry prior to becoming homeless were from Inner Sydney (38% n=13), with other participants previously residing in Metropolitan or Greater Sydney (28% n=10) or elsewhere in NSW (23% n=8) or elsewhere in Australia outside of NSW (n= less than 5).

Figure 4.2 Where did young people live before becoming homeless?



4.3 Gender, age, background and cultural identity

Of the participants who detailed their sexuality, 86% identified as straight (n=30) and less than 5 people identified as gay or lesbian or as bi-sexual. In regards to gender, 58% of respondents were male (n=20) male and 42% females (n=15).

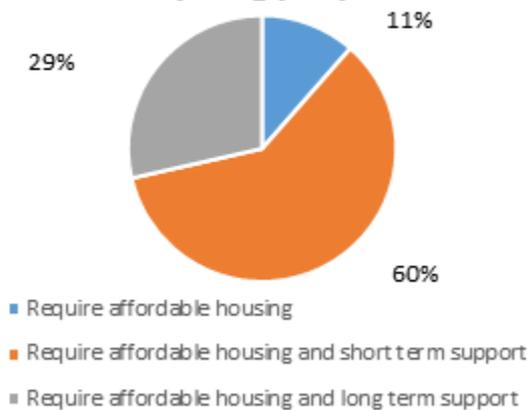
The average age of participants under the age of 25 was 22 years old. 12 of young people under the age of 25 identified as being Aboriginal (34%).

4.4 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the young people over the age of 25:

- 11% (n=4) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 60% (n=21) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 29% (n=10) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

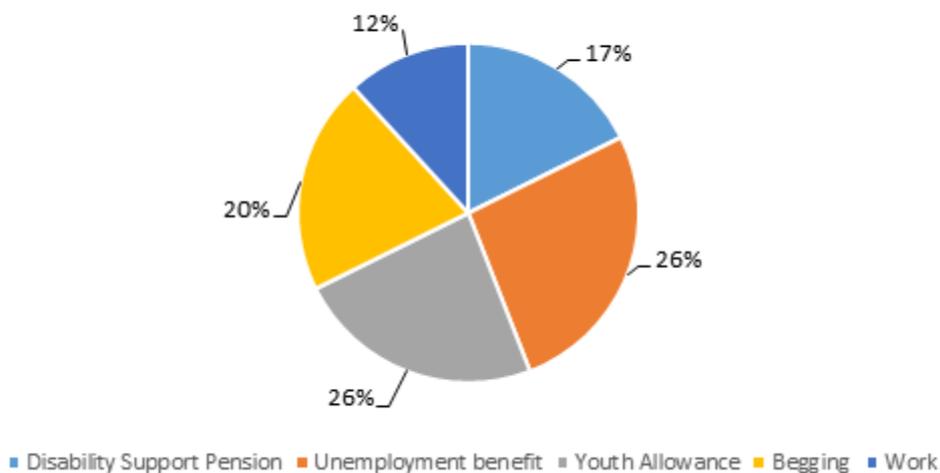
Figure 4.3 Triaging of young people



4.5 Income

The majority of young people relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 26% receiving an unemployment benefit (n=9), 23% receiving youth allowance (n=8) and 17% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=6). A large group of the young people who participated also relied on begging as a form on income (20% n=7).

1.4 Income of young people



4.6 Health

Young people who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 37 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 38 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance.

The young people who participated in the Registry identified a multiple of health issues including:

Physical Health

- 34% reported experiencing Asthma (n=12)
- 9% reported Diabetes (n= less than 5)
- 14% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=5)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)
- No young person indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema and
- 6% of another cancer (n= less than 5)
- 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n= less than 5)
- 6% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n= less than 5)
- 35% identified having dental problems (n=12)
- 12% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n= less than 5)
- No young person reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia

Drugs and Alcohol

- 11% reported using intravenous drugs (n= less than 5)
- 34% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=12)
- 11% reported having a brain injury (n= less than 5)
- 54% reported substance abuse (n=19)

Mental health and Disability

- 26% reported a mental health issue (n=9)
- 42% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=15)

Trauma

Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 45% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse which they identify as causing their homelessness (n=16). Also of note is that 11 survey respondents or 32% of participants reported a history of being in foster care or institutional care.

- In addition, 32% (n=11) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

4.7 Interaction with the justice system

Young people under the age of 25 had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Fifty-four percent of the young people who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=19), 34% had spent time in youth detention (n=12) and 17% had been incarcerated in prison (n=6). A number of participants (34% n=12) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

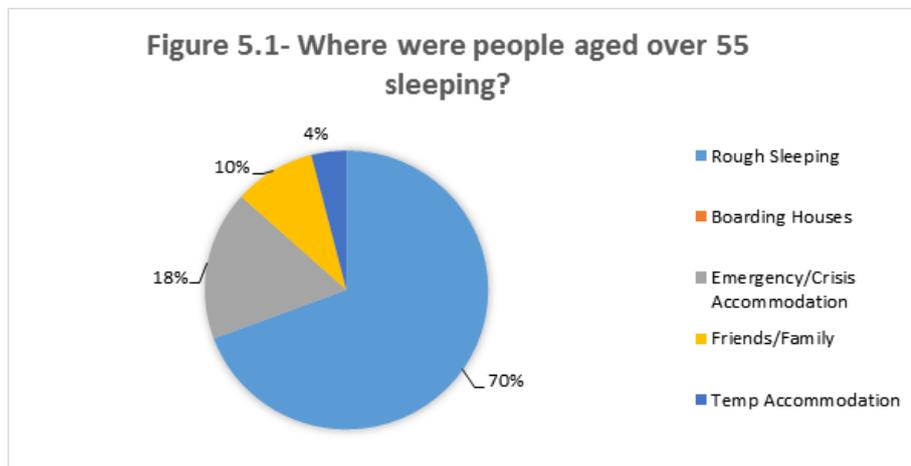
In total, young people who participated in the Registry had 1228 interactions with the police over the past 6 months (an average of 36 interactions per young person).

5. People aged 55 and over

In total 75 people aged 55 and over participated in Registry Week.

5.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most of the people aged 55 and over experiencing homelessness who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently sleeping rough (70% n=52), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Crisis Accommodation Service (18% n=13), in temporary accommodation (4% n= less than 5) or with friends and family (10% n=7).



Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness aged 55 and over was 5.3 years.

In total, over the age of 55 experiencing homeless identified 360 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

5.2 Gender, background and cultural identity

Of people aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry, 90% were male (n=67) and 10% females (n= 8).

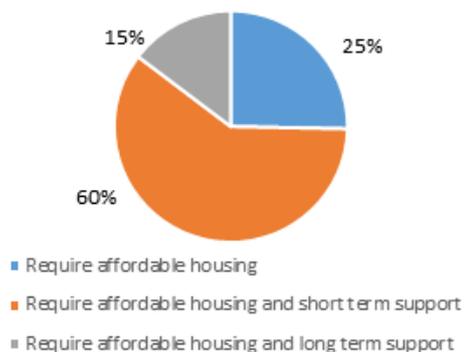
The average age of participants aged 55 and over was 62 years old. A small number (4% n= less than 5) of people aged 55 and over identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

5.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the people aged 55 and over:

- 25% (n=19) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 60% (n=45) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 15% (n=11) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

Figure 5.2 Triaging of people aged 55 and over



5.4 Income

The majority of people over the age of 55 relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 26% receiving an unemployment benefit (n=19), 12% receiving the age pension (n=9) and 44% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=33). Eight percent of the people who participated also relied on begging as a form of income (n=6) with 3 people receiving no income at all.

5.5 Health

People aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry identified a multiple of health issues including:

Physical Health

- 18% reported experiencing Asthma (n=13)
- 18% reported Diabetes (n=13)
- 11% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=8)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)
- 32% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=24)
- 12% of another cancer (n=9)
- No person aged 55 and over reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS
- 11% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=8)
- 44% identified having dental problems (n=33)
- 13% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=10)

Drugs and Alcohol

- 13% reported using intravenous drugs (n=10)
- 27% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=20)
- 20% reported having a brain injury (n=15)
- 43% reported substance abuse (n=32)

Mental health and Disability

- 37% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=27)
- 11% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=8)
- 16% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=12);

People aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 87 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 54 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance.

In addition, 8% (n=6) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

5.6 Interaction with the justice system

People aged 55 and over had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Forty-eight percent of people aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=36) and 47% had been incarcerated in prison (n=35). A number of participants 31% (n=23) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

In total, people aged 55 and over had 658 interactions with the police over the past 6 months.

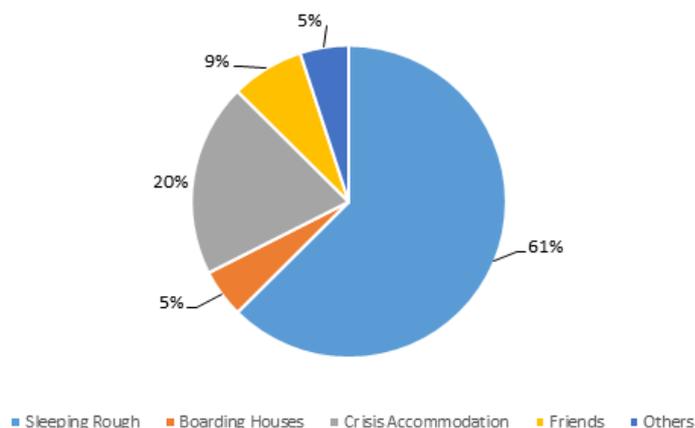
6. Veterans of the Australian Defence Force

In total, 8% (n=42) of participants in the Registry indicated that they have previously been members of the Australian Defence Force.

6.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most veterans were currently sleeping rough (61% n=25) or were in crisis accommodation (20% n=8).

Figure 6.1 Where are veterans currently sleeping?



The average length of homelessness for participants who identified as a veteran was 7.31 years.

In total, over veterans identified 371 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

6.2 Gender, background and cultural identity

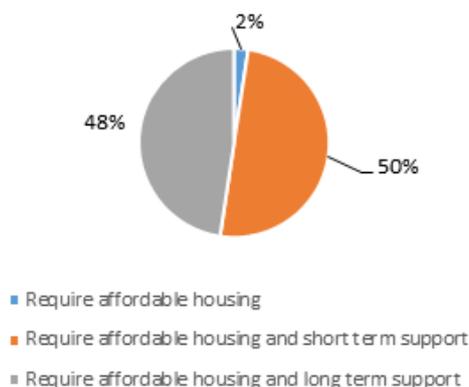
A large majority of these veterans were male (98% n=41) with 40 being over the age of 25 and 2 being under 25, with an average age of 48 years old. A number (4% n=7) veterans identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

6.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the people who identified as veterans:

- 2% (n=less than 5) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 48%(n=21) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 50% (n=20) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

Figure 6.2
Triage of Veterans



6.4 Income

Most veterans indicated that their primary source of income was from government assistance, Disability Support Pension 45% (n=19) or an unemployment benefit 24 % (n=10). Significantly, no veterans indicated receiving income support through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

6.5 Health

Veterans who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 89 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 59 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance. Veterans also identified a multiple of health issues including:

Physical Health

- 24% reported experiencing Asthma (n=10)
- 15% reported Diabetes (n=6)
- 29% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=12)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=less than 5)
- 15% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=6)
- 10% of another cancer (n=less than 5)
- 5% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=less than 5)
- 12% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=5)
- 12% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=5)
- 78% identified having dental problems (n=33)

Drug and Alcohol

- 33% had used injection drugs in the past 6 months (n=14)
- 43 % report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=18)
- 60% reporting substance abuse (n=25);

Mental Health and Disability

- 48% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=20)
- 24% had an identified learning or development disability (n=24)
- 40% had received diagnosis with a brain injury (n=17)
- 12% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=5)

Trauma

In addition, 36% report having attempted to harm themselves in the last year (n=13) and 58% reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse which they identify as causing their homelessness (n=24). A large number (30% or n=12) of veterans indicated that they had been in foster or institutional care as a child.

6.6 Interaction with the justice system

Veterans also identified multiple interactions with the police and the criminal justice system.

A considerable number of respondents (70% n=29) had been incarcerated in prison, 84% (n=35) had spent time in police custody.

A number of participants 31% (n=25) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

In total, veterans had 155 interactions with the police over the past 6 months.

7. Conclusion and further data analysis

This report provides a broad overview of information from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015.

As the peak agency for homelessness services in NSW, Homelessness NSW intends to work with members to replicate Registry Week in areas throughout the state. The data generated will be used to provide assistance to the individuals who participated as well as to drive more targeted and effective service delivery and policy responses to people experiencing homelessness.

The de-identified data from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 is held by the Mercy Foundation, Homelessness NSW and NEAMI National and can be further interrogated if services or community members would like specific information or would like to compare or analyse the data in different ways.



APPENDIX A

Survey questions

Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

Introduction script for volunteers

Hello,

My name is [first name] and I am volunteer collecting some information on behalf of some housing and health services in the city. The idea is to collect information that will help us better identify people's needs to support them to access accommodation with support. It should take about thirty minutes and if you choose to participate you will be given \$15 cash.

If the person chooses not to participate – try to encourage them or offer to come back when it might be a more convenient time for them. But if they don't want to then thank them for their time and then make sure that you note down the location and other details on the survey refusal form:

If the person chooses to participate:

Great. Before we start the survey we just have to discuss consent. We will explain more about your rights and how we will protect your privacy. It should take about five minutes and you will be asked to sign a form to say you agree to participate.



Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)
Prescreen for Individuals

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Participant Consent form- Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015

Privacy Notice This privacy notice applies to Neami National, the Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects. All organisations with access to personal information comply with privacy and health legislation when collecting and managing personal information. The information we collect from you or from an authorised third party will be held in a secure online database and only Neami National, the Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects will be able to access that information. The Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects only have access to the data base in order to assist with data analysis. Information where your identity is concealed will be used to plan, coordinate and improve the way we provide services and address homelessness in Sydney. Any personal information supplied by you will not be disclosed unless your consent is given to do so, or if it is required by law.

Further information about your privacy rights can be gained by contacting Neami National:
 Website: www.neaminational.org.au
 Phone: 1800 505 501 (free call)
 Email: outreach@neaminational.org.au

Participant Consent

I understand that:

- I can change my mind and stop my consent at any time, including amending or removing my record. If I withdraw my consent my record will be permanently deleted and the paper copy destroyed.
- If I do not sign this form I will still receive the services I currently get. But, by not giving my consent, other agencies may not be able to get a full understanding of my needs and circumstances.
- I agree that my name and date of birth can be shared with NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) to assist with accessing secure and stable accommodation. If FACS has a record about my request for housing, I agree FACS can tell you about that.
- My information will be entered into a secure database and the physical record will be held securely by Neami National in accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records Information Act.
- It has been explained to me that if I feel that some of my information is sensitive or could impact on my safety, I can let the person surveying me with this form know.
- For people sleeping rough only:** I agree to being photographed for the sole purpose of agencies providing me with follow up assistance.

I authorise Neami National to share my information with the following person/agency for the sole purpose of assisting with my housing, health and social support needs:

Organisation Name:	Tick for Consent	Location/Contact Name



Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

Signed Consent	Verbal Consent
Participant Name: _____	Name _____
Participant Signature: _____	Witness: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____
Surveyor: _____	Surveyor: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCRIPT: This is the first part of the survey. It's just asking some general information about you.

A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

SCRIPT: This next part asks questions about your history of housing and homelessness

1. Interviewer's Name		2. Agency _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> TEAM <input type="checkbox"/> STAFF <input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEER	
3. Date	4. Time	5. Location and postcode	
6. In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?			
7. Participant's First Name		8. Participant's Last Name	
9. Nickname		10. Centrelink Reference Number	
11. How old are you?	12. What's your date of birth?	13. Has Consented to Participate <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

QUESTIONS		
	RESPONSE	DECLINED
14. What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in emergency accommodation?	(months)	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. What is the total length of time you have lived without stable accommodation?	(months)	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. In the past three years, how many times have you changed addresses?		<input type="checkbox"/>



Prescreen for Individuals

B. RISKS

SCRIPT: I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with health and emergency services. Feel free to decline any that you don't want to answer.

QUESTIONS			
	RESPONSE		DECLINED
17. Since June, how many times have you been to Accidents and Emergencies at the hospital?			<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Since June, how many times have you had an interaction with the police?			<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Since June, how many times have you been taken to the hospital in an ambulance?			<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Since June, how many times have you used a crisis service, including any phone hotlines? Eg Link2Home.			<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Since June, how many times have you been hospitalised as an in-patient, including hospitalisations in a mental health hospital?			<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO	DECLINED
22. Have you been physically assaulted whilst you have been experiencing homelessness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Have you threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in you being locked up or having to pay fines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Does anybody force or stand over you to do things that you do not want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Do you ever do things that might be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't really know, share a needle, or anything like that?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. I am going to read types of places people sleep. Please tell me which one you sleep at most often. (Mark only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> With friends/family, temporarily <input type="checkbox"/> Foster home <input type="checkbox"/> Bushland <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/ Crisis accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> Beach/Riverbed <input type="checkbox"/> Squat/Cave <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel <input type="checkbox"/> Train Station/Bus Station <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Hostel <input type="checkbox"/> DV Refuge <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding houses <input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Toilets <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol treatment centre <input type="checkbox"/> Caravan Park (<i>specify</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>specify</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Police cells <input type="checkbox"/> Jail/Juvenile Detention		



Prescreen for Individuals

C. SOCIALISATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS

SCRIPT: Now I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with other people you know. Feel free to decline any that you don't want to answer.

QUESTIONS	YES	NO	DECLINED
28. Is there anybody that thinks you owe them money?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Do you have any money coming in on a regular basis, through a job, government benefit, cash in hand work, or anything like that?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Do you have enough money to meet all of your expenses and debts on a fortnightly basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Do you have planned activities each day other than just surviving that you enjoy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Do you have any friends, family or other people in your life out of convenience or necessity, but you do not like their company?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Do any friends, family or other people in your life ever take your money, borrow cigarettes, use your drugs, drink your alcohol, or get you to do things you really don't want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK! 34. Surveyor, do you detect signs of poor hygiene or daily living skills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



D. WELLNESS

SCRIPT: The next section asks more questions about your health and wellness. Some of these you may find personal or sensitive so remember you can decline to answer any questions you like.

QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		
35. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you're not feeling well? (Surveyor, please tick all that apply and specify who and where for each)	<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent's Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Haymarket Foundation Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> GP who visits my hostel/boarding house
	<input type="checkbox"/> Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach Medical Emergency Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk-billing GP
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sydney Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Redfern Community Health Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Other GP _____
 <input type="checkbox"/> Other centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern	<input type="checkbox"/> Mission Australia Dental Service
	<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent's Way2Home Health Team	<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent's Community Mental Health Services <input type="checkbox"/> Glebe Community Mental Health Team	<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent's Drug and Alcohol Service <input type="checkbox"/> Kings Cross Safe Injecting Centre
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other health service for homeless people _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Redfern Community Mental Health Team <input type="checkbox"/> Headspace, Camperdown	<input type="checkbox"/> Needle Exchange Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other drug and alcohol service _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other mental health service		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Camperdown Youth Health Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's Health Centre _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual health Centre (RPA)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kirkton Rd Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not go for care	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Health Centre (Sydney Hospital)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other youth health service _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Court (Methadone clinic) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Surry Hills Sexual Health Centre _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Langton Centre (Drug & Alcohol service)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rankin Court (Drug & Alcohol service)	



Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

QUESTIONS			
	YES	NO	DECLINED
Do you have now, have you ever had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions:			
36. Kidney disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. HIV+/AIDS (Surveyor reiterate that respondent need not answer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42. Emphysema	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43. Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44. Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45. Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46. Hepatitis C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47. Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
48. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious health condition?			
49. Other: _____			
50. Have you ever had problematic drug or alcohol use, abused drugs or alcohol, or been told you do – including any issues with using medicines in a way you weren't supposed to or using over-the-counter medications to get high?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51. Have you consumed alcohol and/or drugs almost every day or every day for the past month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52. Have you used injection drugs or shots since June?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Prescreen for Individuals

QUESTIONS			
	YES	NO	DECLINED
53. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol problems and returned to drinking or using drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54. Have you used non-beverage alcohol like metho, cough syrup, mouthwash, rubbing alcohol, cooking wine, or anything like that or have you used inhalants like paint or petrol or anything like that since June?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55. Have you blacked out because of your alcohol or drug use in the past month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
56. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms or problematic alcohol or drug abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57. Ever been taken to a hospital against your will for a mental health reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58. Gone to Accidents and Emergencies at the hospital because you weren't feeling 100% well emotionally or because of your nerves?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
59. Spoken with a psychiatrist, psychologist or other mental health professional since June because of your mental health – whether that was voluntary or because someone insisted that you do so?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60. Had a serious brain injury or head trauma?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
61. Ever been told you have a learning disability or developmental disability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62. Do you have any problems concentrating and/or remembering things?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
63. Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms of severe, persistent mental illness or severely compromised cognitive functioning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
64. Have you had any medicines prescribed to you by a doctor that you do not take, sell, had stolen, misplaced, or where the prescriptions were never filled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65. Yes or No – Have you experienced any emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other type of abuse or trauma in your life which you have not sought help for, and/or which has caused your homelessness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Prescreen for Individuals

SCRIPT: I'd like to ask you a handful of questions now that help us better understand homelessness and improve housing and support services.

QUESTIONS	
66. I am...	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex or X
67. How do you identify?	<input type="checkbox"/> Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Queer <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian or gay <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-sexual <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify).....
68. Have you ever served in the Australian Defence Force?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
69. What is your citizenship status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Bridging Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
70. Where did you live prior to this?	<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Sydney <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan and greater Sydney <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in NSW <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else (specify) _____
71. Have you ever been in foster care or institutional care as a child?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
72. Have you ever been in custody?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
73. Have you ever been in youth detention?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
74. Have you ever been in prison?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
75. Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [i.e. wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs]?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
76. What kind of health cover do you have, if any? (mark all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> DVA <input type="checkbox"/> Private Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
77. Have you had a Centrelink breach since June?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
78. How do you make money? (mark all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Rent Assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Home Away Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Begging <input type="checkbox"/> Work, Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Student Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Work, Self Employed <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance (child support) <input type="checkbox"/> Work, Big Issue Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Family Tax Benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Workers' Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Any other pension/ allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Aged Pension <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Support Pension <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Work <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> No income



Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

QUESTIONS	
79. Do you identify as: (mark all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Australian <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> South Sea Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealander <input type="checkbox"/> British <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> European <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern <input type="checkbox"/> American <input type="checkbox"/> South East Asian <input type="checkbox"/> South American <input type="checkbox"/> African <input type="checkbox"/> Maori <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) _____
80. Do you attend school regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
81. What is the highest year of school you completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 12 or equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Year 10 or equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Year 8 or below <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship or Tertiary studies <input type="checkbox"/> Year 11 or equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Year 9 or equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Did not go to school
82. On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of day is it easiest to do so?	
83. Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can get in touch with you or leave you a message?	

SCRIPT: Alright, we are almost there...

QUESTIONS	
84. Do you have control of your finances?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
85. If not, who does?	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Trustee <input type="checkbox"/> Carer <input type="checkbox"/> Relative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
86. Do you have a Medicare card?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
87. Do you have a pension card?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
Do you have any of the following?	
88. Cellulitis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
89. Foot/skin infections	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
90. Scabies	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
91. Dehydration	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined



Prescreen for Individuals

QUESTIONS	
92. Convulsions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
93. Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
94. Are you pregnant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
95. Dental problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
96. Who is your next of kin? We will contact this person in case of emergency.	Name _____ Contact _____ Relationship _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> No next of kin
97. Are you with others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Children/dependents <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Parents <input type="checkbox"/> I am not with others
98. Do you have any pets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
99. If yes, what kind of pet(s)?	

SCRIPT: Finally...

QUESTIONS	
100. What do you need to be safe and well?	_____ _____ _____
101. Have you ever or are you being forced to work, marry or perform acts of a sexual nature against your will because of fear, threats or intimidation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
102. For people sleeping rough only: Ok, finally I'd like to take your picture. May I do so?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined



APPENDIX B

Privacy and confidentiality Handout

Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015

Know your Rights

Homelessness NSW, Neami National, The Haymarket Foundation, The Mercy Foundation and The City of Sydney, Homelessness Unit are working together to establish a register of all people experiencing homelessness in Sydney.

What information is being collected?

- You will be asked to provide information on housing, health and social nee

How will this information be used?

- Non-identifiable information will be used to inform government, non-government agencies, research and the community about the needs and experiences of people experiencing homelessness.
- With your consent, information you provide will be used to help services assist you to access housing, health care and other support.

Who else can access my information?

- If you nominate a service provider this information can be shared with them for the sole purpose of supporting you to access housing and other support.
- Your personal information will not be shared with a third party without your consent.

Where is this information stored?

- Information you provide in this survey will be entered into a secure online database with access limited to Neami National and Mercy Foundation. The paper copy will be stored in a secure, locked cabinet.

What if I change my mind about giving consent?

- You can withdraw consent at any time. You have the right to review, change and withdraw your information at any time at no cost by contacting Neami National:

Phone: 1800 505 501 (free call)

Email: outreach@neaminational.org.au

- Once your consent is withdrawn your record is permanently deleted from the database and the paper copy is destroyed.
- To find out more about your Privacy rights log onto the Information and Privacy Commission Website. <http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/>

Please retain this form for future reference.