



This is what Homeless Looks Like

Global Sisters works with, and employs, many Australian women who have faced or experienced homelessness first hand. With the federal election around the corner, closely followed by the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout for Homelessness, we feel it's important to share what homelessness looks like in our country and what else we should be doing to address it. The answers may surprise you...

Global Sisters CEO, Mandy Richards explains that it's our mothers and grandmothers who are at growing risk of homelessness. "There's a stereotype that homelessness is representative of the older men we see on the streets of our major cities, however single mothers and women over 50 are Australia's fastest growing homeless group. Women are often referred to as the "hidden homeless" because they're regularly quite literally hiding in refuges, emergency shelters, sleeping in a friend's spare room or even in their cars to avoid sleeping rough on the streets where their safety is further threatened."

"It's well known that domestic violence against women in our country is an ongoing source of homelessness. For many women, violence is the reason they are homeless. Over one-third of women over the age of 15 have experienced physical, psychological and/or sexual violence at the hands of a current or former partner. And many are forced out of their homes due to fears for their safety and the safety of their children.

"Many of Australia's homeless are grandmothers, mums and children. It's a national disgrace and it needs to be placed firmly on our Government's political agenda"

Homelessness Key Facts:

- Almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of single mothers have experienced homelessness at some point
- Homeless women in Australia over the age of 50 has increased by 31% since 2011 (ABS, 2018)
- By the time they are 60, 34% of single women in Australia live in poverty



"While we welcomed the announcement that \$328 million in the federal budget would be invested in initiatives to address domestic and family violence, we are seriously concerned that the financial resilience of women fleeing domestic violence doesn't appear to have been addressed. These women are often financially isolated, often fleeing with their children, and they simply have nowhere to live".

Richards says she believes there are opportunities to mitigate the risk of homelessness among Australia's single mums, women over 50, and indeed all women on welfare.

"Global Sisters is working closely with single mothers and single women over 50 throughout Australia, to help them to create financial resilience by reducing isolation, increasing a sense of community and offering innovative solutions that make business a viable, flexible income generating option for them. Their roles as mothers need to be valued and the multiple barriers they face daily need to be recognised and supported practically."

For more information about Global Sisters' programs, and the impact they're having, or to find out how you can be involved, [click here](#).



Contact Details

Mandy Richards, CEO & Founder
Email: mandy@globalsisters.org
Phone: +61 448644600