

# Homes for all

## What Can I Do?

Wondering what you can do to address the issues around housing and homeless? There are seven things we believe you can actively do to get involved in to make a difference; they are listed below. We challenge you to pick one of the actions and take an oath to uphold that action for the rest of the year. Send us a picture of it and we will hold you to your word.

### 1. Understand who the homeless are and challenge the stereotypes

Help dispel the stereotypes about the homeless. Learn about the different reasons for homelessness, and remember, every situation is unique. One of the first steps in helping people is to see them as individuals and to find out what they need.

- Notice them & be kind
- Talk to them
- Help them where you can



### 2. Educate yourself about the solutions and share your new knowledge

Learn about the long-term solutions for ending homelessness. Educate yourself & Inform others. Shelter Tasmania is a good place to start.

- Learn about your local shelter and what they need to support the homeless. Share this information with your friends and family.
- Help others, especially children, to see that the homeless are people that deserve your care and respect too.
- Talk to your family and friends about ways they could volunteer or donate in their community.

### 3. Develop a list of shelters in the area

Carry a card that lists local shelters so you can hand them out to the homeless. You can find shelters in your area through your local councils. Get to know your Housing and homelessness Services and systems.

### 4. Support Local Homeless initiatives

Research programs or initiatives in your area that engage with or assist the homeless. Like Catholic Care Tasmania, Annie Kenny, Centacare Evolve Housing, St Joseph Affordable Homes and Build Up Tassie. The Yes In My Backyard – YIMBY campaign. Support the YIMBY campaign by using #YIMBY on all social media, engaging with YIMBY content, tagging our organisations on Facebook and LinkedIn, and sharing our organisations' content around YIMBY and Homelessness Week.

**Housing Connect - Free call - 24 hours - 1800 800 588.**

**Housing Connect:** provides case management support for people experiencing housing stress, needing emergency accommodation, rent or bond assistance. In southern Tasmania, Housing Connect is a collaboration between five agencies = Anglicare, CatholicCare, Hobart City Mission, Salvation Army and Colony 47 as lead agency.

**Shelters:** provide crisis and transitional accommodation services.

**Social Housing Providers:** include Housing Tasmania and Community Housing Providers. These organisations allocate properties and provide tenancy management.

**Find Help Tasmania:** [findhelptas.com.au](http://findhelptas.com.au) provides up to date information on food, shower and recreation programs and services.



## 5. Donate

- Give money – One of the most direct ways to aid the homeless is to give directly. Donations to non-profit organisations that serve the homeless go a long way.
- Donate clothing – If items are in good shape, donate them to organisations that help the homeless.
- Donate a bag of groceries – Donate non-perishable groceries to a food drive in your area. If your community doesn't have a food drive, organise one. Contact your local homeless services and ask what kind of donations they would like.
- Donate toys – Children living in shelters have few possessions, if any. You can donate toys, books, and games to family shelters to distribute to homeless children.

## 6. Volunteer

Many organisations supporting the homeless thrive on the work of volunteers. Contact your local [Volunteering Tasmania](#) organisation to find out what is needed and what you can do to help.

- Shelters
- Soup kitchens/food programs
- Volunteer your professional services – No matter what you do for a living, you can help the homeless with your on-the-job talents and skills.
- Volunteer your hobbies – cooking, repairing, gardening, and photography – all hobbies teach useful skills and introduce people to new things.
- Driving or providing transport – especially for health appointments or recreational fun.
- Women's shelters
- Sign up your company/school for a campaign or create a fundraising event and/or recruit a local business to get involved – Push for action
- Create lists of donations most needed by your local organisations and promote this regularly. Make a list for each organization, along with its address, telephone number, and the name of a contact person.

- **Contact Volunteering Tasmania.**  
[volunteeringtas.org.au](http://volunteeringtas.org.au)
- **Approach your local Neighbourhood House.**  
[nht.org.au/find-a-house/](http://nht.org.au/find-a-house/)
- **Join the State Emergency Services (SES).**  
[ses.tas.gov.au/volunteer/](http://ses.tas.gov.au/volunteer/)
- **Link in with your local Council.**  
**Local councils support a range of community activities that you can get involved with.**

## 7. Join a Campaign

- Write to corporations. Contact various organisations and ask them what they are doing to help the homelessness.
- Stand up for the rights of the homeless. Contact your government representatives about issues affecting homelessness.
- Join our, Yes in My Backyard, YIMBY, Campaign and help build more community housing for all that need homes. Support the YIMBY campaign by using #YIMBY on all social media, engaging with YIMBY content, tagging our organisations on Facebook and LinkedIn, and sharing our organisations' content around YIMBY and Homelessness Week.

