

Shelter SA supports homeless friendly precincts

Shelter SA is the peak body for housing in South Australia with a vision for every South Australian to have an affordable, safe place to call home. With a quarter of a million people accessing homelessness services across Australia each year, Shelter SA cannot achieve their vision. A lack of social and affordable housing is directly related to the huge numbers of people who are doing it tough and there are no quick answers. In Adelaide, South Australia, there are a number of day centres for homeless people, which are doing a good job of meeting the immediate needs of people who visit, including meals, showers, some space to store belongings and access to workers and services. It is ironic that they are not set up to provide night time shelter, and a safe place to sleep, a basic human right not available to all citizens, including our children. Shelter SA supports Gerry Georgatos' idea, put forward in his article in *The Stringer*¹ and elsewhere to create homeless friendly precincts where according to Jennifer Kaeshagen, Director of the First Nations Homelessness Project, "It's time for homeless friendly precincts. Safe spaces where people experiencing homelessness can go to 24/7, no waiting lists, no questions asked – people's privacy, sensitivities respected." Shelter SA Executive Director, Alice Clark agrees, "social and affordable housing is a must, but in the meantime we should be implementing homeless friendly precincts as a matter of urgency".

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¹ <http://thestringer.com.au/its-time-for-homeless-friendly-precincts-the-minimum-standard-10760#.VcwhKv4w8wk>