



## Homeless Connect: Homelessness, Health & Housing Expo 2016

Thousands of South Australians experience homelessness every day. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the situation is not improving and their point in time snapshot tells us that about 8,000 South Australians are without a home and approximately 1,000 people are sleeping on the streets on any given night. Alarming 40% of homeless people are children and young people under the age of 24. Aboriginal people are overrepresented in homelessness statistics.

Many people experience housing stress (paying more than 30% of their income on housing) and are doing it really tough – living in housing that is unaffordable or sub-standard. Emergency housing and crisis centres are at capacity and the demand for public housing far outweighs supply.

“When people do not have an affordable, safe and secure place to call home, many other things that most of us take for granted are just not possible,” Dr. Alice Clark, Shelter SA Executive Director said today, “housing is the most basic building block people need to achieve education, employment, good health and being able to look after their families”.

In terms of health, people experiencing homelessness are really at a disadvantage. Eating healthily, looking after yourself, seeing a GP and purchasing medicines can also be a challenge without any money and nowhere to live. The Shelter SA annual **Homeless Connect: Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo** aims to improve the health and well-being of some of SA’s most marginalised and disadvantaged citizens by providing opportunities for people to speak with allied health professionals and social services.

Dr. Clark said, “the national Homeless Connect program is vitally important. Here in Adelaide the event encourages people to connect with services that can provide them with information and support about health, education and employment. Homeless Connect also gives people the opportunity to go out and meet new people, listen to live music, have a great lunch, join in the activities and just have fun.”

Taking place in Anti-Poverty Week, Adelaide’s annual **Homeless Connect: Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo** will be held this **Thursday, 20 October in Whitmore Square, Adelaide between 10am and 2pm**. Presented by Shelter SA, the peak body for housing in the State and funded by the Adelaide City Council, the Homeless Connect Expo brings together over 50 services from across the homelessness, health and housing sectors.

The Expo is designed to provide free services, give-aways and meals to people who need it most, it is important to note that the Expo is not for the general public. If you would like to be a part of the day, you can volunteer by contacting Shelter SA. If you know someone who is struggling please encourage them to come along.

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[www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au)