



CAMPAIGN KIT

**YOUTH**  
**HOMELESSNESS**  
**MATTERS**  
**15<sup>th</sup> APRIL DAY**

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) – a national day that raises awareness about child and youth homelessness and drives fundraising for the sector.

**End youth homelessness.**

**EDUCATE**

share messages  
and content

**ACTIVATE**

host or  
attend events

**DONATE**

support youth  
homelessness services

**ADVOCATE**

to end child and  
youth homelessness

# YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL DAY

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

### **EDUCATE** share messages and content

You are the most influential voice to your friends, family and neighbours. Your post is more influential than any advertisement. Personalise your message, share and let people know why you think youth homelessness matters!

**Download and share across your social media channels. Spread the word that with adequate funding and enough support, we can end youth homelessness.**

A suite of YHMD social media tiles and a messaging ideas are downloadable from [www.yfoundations.org.au/yhmd-resources/](http://www.yfoundations.org.au/yhmd-resources/)  
Hashtag: #YHMD26  
Tag: @yhmday  
Direct to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)  
Caption: End youth homelessness

There is a framework but your own words are the most powerful! Be authentic and genuine. Say why ending child and youth homelessness matters.

### **ACTIVATE** host or attend events

Organise community events like BBQs, picnics, overnight couch-sleeping events or fun days where people can learn more about child and youth homelessness in a social environment. Set up stalls with information on the issue and encourage discussions to get people talking and sharing ideas about local initiatives.

**Register your events with Yfoundations so we can promote them.**

**If you see a local event, attend and support it and educate yourself about how and why we need to end youth homelessness.**

### **DONATE** support youth homelessness services

Youth homelessness service providers are severely underfunded. On any give night they have to turn away half the young people seeking a bed because they simply don't have the resources to accommodate them.

**You can donate to your local or preferred service at [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)**

### **ADVOCATE** to end child and youth homelessness

Have your voice heard by politicians and advocate for young people to be free from homelessness. Government needs to invest in early intervention and prevention services, wrap around support and housing

and increase income support for young people to access private rentals.

Show your support [www.hometime.org.au/takeaction](http://www.hometime.org.au/takeaction)

## EDUCATE. ACTIVATE. DONATE. ADVOCATE

# YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY SOCIAL TILES

**YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY**  
15<sup>th</sup> APRIL DAY

A national day to raise awareness about child and youth homelessness  
[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

**Messaging:**  
This Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is Wednesday, April 15. Let's face the reality of youth homelessness. Show your support by sharing messages on social media, hosting or attending YHMD events and donating to service providers.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

The most common reasons young people seek assistance:

- Domestic and family violence
- Housing crisis
- Relationship/family breakdown

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Young people experience homelessness for a variety of reasons but the majority have been exposed to domestic and family violence. 0% of private rentals are affordable to anyone on a youth allowance.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

**42,763**  
children and young people (under 25 years) presented alone to a specialist homelessness services last year.

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Last year nearly 43,000 children and young people presented alone to specialist homelessness services. 1 in 10 were under 14 years old. 40% of Australia's homeless population is under 25 years of age.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

Young SHS clients were more likely to be couch surfing which leaves young people vulnerable to servitude, exploitation and abuse.

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Youth homelessness is largely hidden. Young people experiencing homelessness often stay with friends or extended family. Sometimes they don't consider themselves to be homeless. Couch surfing puts young people in a vulnerable position where they are open to abuse and exploitation.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

A third of young people presenting alone to specialist homelessness services identified as Indigenous

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Young Indigenous people are way over represented in those presenting to homelessness services. This is huge over representation of First Nations people which account for 3% of the population.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

We're calling on the NSW Government to increase funding to the SHS sector by 50% so we don't have to turn young people away

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Youth homelessness services can't keep up with the demand for beds. Housing is only a part of the solution. Funding to provide the wrap around services necessary to support young people and to help them thrive must increase in line with inflation and the spirally costs of service provision.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A safe place for every young Australian

Every child and young person needs a safe place to call home in order to thrive

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
Every young Australian deserves a safe place to call home. Young people experiencing homelessness have vastly different needs to adults. They need the right support in order to achieve their potential

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

**YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY**

**EDUCATE:** share messages and content  
**ACTIVATE:** host or attend events  
**DONATE:** support youth homelessness services  
**ADVOCATE:** to end youth homelessness

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
We want a safe place for every young Australian. This Youth Homelessness Matters Day, show your support by sharing messages and content, hosting and attending YHMD events, donating to services and advocating to end child and youth homelessness.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

Half of the young people trying to get a beds in crisis refuges are turned away because services aren't sufficiently funded to accommodate them

[www.yhmd.org.au](http://www.yhmd.org.au)  
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY - 15.04.26

**Messaging:**  
The youth homelessness sector is severely underfunded and there is an ever increasing number of young people looking for help. Half those looking for a bed are turned away due to a lack of resources. This traumatic for them and front line workers.

**End youth homelessness.**

Link to: [yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

**Hashtag:** #YHMD26  
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**EDUCATE. ACTIVATE. DONATE. ADVOCATE.**



# YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL DAY

LET'S FACE THE REALITY OF  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

[yhmd.org.au](http://yhmd.org.au)

## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY THE FACTS

Across Australia in 2024–25

# 42,763

**children and young people**  
(under 25 years) presented  
**on their own** to a specialist  
homelessness service (SHS)\*

The most common reasons  
young people sought assistance from  
an SHS in 2024–25 were:

- **Domestic and family violence**
- **Housing crisis**
- **Relationship/family  
breakdown**

Nationally, **half** of the young people  
who tried to get a bed in a  
crisis refuge in 2024–25  
**were turned away**  
**because services aren't**  
**sufficiently funded to**  
**accommodate them**

A third of young people  
presenting alone  
to Specialist  
Homelessness Services  
**identified as Indigenous\***

Young SHS clients presenting alone  
were more likely to be couch surfing,  
compared with any other  
SHS client group.

**Couch surfing leaves**  
**young people vulnerable to**  
**servitude, exploitation and abuse**

We're calling on  
national and state governments to  
**end youth homelessness**  
by funding the services needed  
to achieve this objective.

\* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2025), Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2024–25

