

WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS

Of the estimated 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world, 70% are women and girls.

¹ *Women and girls are also the fastest increasing group of impoverished and homeless, a process called 'the global feminization of poverty.'*²

- Women have few or no property rights in many parts of the world. Many women of the world are barred, mostly by custom but sometimes by law, from inheriting or owning the homes in which they live, **condemning them and their children to poverty and destitution if their spouse or family members die.**³
- Some 75% of the world's women cannot get formal bank loans because they lack permanent employment and title deeds to land or housing that they can offer as security, or because the laws of their countries **classify them as minors**, not eligible to make legal transactions.⁴
- Women are the primary carers of elderly, disabled and mentally ill members of the family. This limits their opportunity for paid work. Carers are found to **not only suffer financially but also emotionally, physically and socially.**⁵
- Lack of affordable child-care hinders women re-entering the workforce and often compromises their work opportunities, which can lead to a pattern of irregular, part-time and casual work being **less reliable sources of income.**⁶
- There are **more young women who are homeless** than young men in Australia.⁷
- Young women sought support from specialist homelessness agencies **more than any other group** in Australia in 2010-11.⁸
- **59%** of the 244,000 Australians who accessed specialist homelessness services in 2012-13 were women.⁹
- Specialist homelessness services that provide support to single women account for **less than 10%** of all homelessness services in Australia.¹⁰
- Women with children are the largest group of users of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program in Australia.¹¹

¹ Shelter 2.0 *Homeless Statistics* 2014 <http://www.shelter20.com/homeless-statistics/> Accessed on 25 March 2014

² Shelter 2.0 *Homeless Statistics* 2014 <http://www.shelter20.com/homeless-statistics/> Accessed on 25 March 2014

³ Shelter 2.0 *Homeless Statistics* 2014 <http://www.shelter20.com/homeless-statistics/> Accessed on 25 March 2014

⁴ Shelter 2.0 *Homeless Statistics* 2014 <http://www.shelter20.com/homeless-statistics/> Accessed on 25 March 2014

⁵ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 12 March 2014.

⁶ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 12 March 2014.

⁷ Homelessness Australia Fact Sheet 2013 <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/index.php/about-homelessness/fact-sheets> Accessed 5 March 14.

⁸ Neideck, Geoff. *Young Women the Dominant Users of Specialist Homeless Services: Government-funded specialist homelessness services SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2010-11* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737420865> Accessed 4 March 2014

⁹ Neideck, Geoff. *Young Women the Dominant Users of Specialist Homeless Services: Government-funded specialist homelessness services SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2010-11* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737420865> Accessed 4 March 2014

¹⁰ Homelessness Australia Fact Sheet 2013 <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/index.php/about-homelessness/fact-sheets> Accessed 5 March 14.

¹¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection, Annual Report, 2010-2011* <http://www.aihw.gov.au/aihw-annual-report-2011/2010-2011>, accessed 5 March 2014.

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- **One in two** people who request immediate accommodation are turned away each night in Australia due to high demand and under-resourcing. The majority of these people are women and their children.¹²
- **Domestic violence** is a major cause of homelessness for women.¹³
- 66% of the children who accompanied an adult to a homeless service last year were in the care of a woman, usually their mothers, escaping domestic violence.¹⁴
- Of all homeless women with children, 61% left due to interpersonal relationship issues, with 45% **definitely being identified as domestic violence**.¹⁵
- Women and children are in the top bracket of 'unmet demand' from homelessness services. Many more people try to access crisis and refuge accommodation than there is room for. This is likely to be a reason why women **return to their domestic violence perpetrators**.¹⁶
- There is a distinct lack of services in Australia for women who are homeless for reasons *other than* domestic violence. Unisex homeless shelters are often unsafe for women on their own, and so they are often forced to **stay on the street**.¹⁷
- Almost **49,000** adult females were assisted as a result of domestic violence in 2012-2013, with these cases involving around 24,000 children.¹⁸
- Only 54% of employed women work full-time in Australia, compared to 83.4% of employed men.¹⁹
- Women make up only **33%** of the paid full-time work force in Australia.²⁰
- 87% of single headed households in Australia are women with children **juggling work, family commitments and associated costs**.²¹

¹² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection, Annual Report, 2010-2011* <http://www.aihw.gov.au/aihw-annual-report-2011/> 2010-2011, accessed 5 March 2014.

¹³ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 26 March 2014.

¹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection, Annual Report, 2010-2011*

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/aihw-annual-report-2011/> 2010-2011, accessed 5 March 2014.

¹⁵ VicHealth, *Violence against women in Australia as a determinant of mental health and wellbeing, Research Summary 4*, VicHealth, 2008.

¹⁶ Spinney, Angela. *Reducing the Need for Women and Children to Make Repeated use of Refuge and Other Crisis Accommodation*,

<https://homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au/files/2012/11/Spinney-final-report-pdf.pdf>, 2012. Accessed on 5 March 2014.

¹⁷ Homelessness Australia Fact Sheet 2013 <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/index.php/about-homelessness/fact-sheets> Accessed 5 March 14.

¹⁸ Neideck, Geoff. *Young Women the Dominant Users of Specialist Homeless Services: Government-funded specialist homelessness services SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2010-11* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737420865> Accessed 4 March 2014

¹⁹ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 26 March 2014.

²⁰ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 26 March 2014.

²¹ Women's Property Initiative *Women, Domestic Violence and Homelessness Fact Sheet 2014*

http://www.wpi.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20:media-kit-download&catid=10:media-kit&Itemid=21 Accessed on 26 March 2014.