

6

Young people become homeless when primary family relationships breakdown. For young adults living independently, it will be the breakdown of the family unit they have formed that precipitates homelessness. The role of family in youth homelessness is much the same picture as presented in *Our Homeless Children*, some 20 years ago. Family breakdown is a broad term that includes such issues as mental illness, domestic violence, neglect, overcrowding, and generational poverty. The young people whose family support has broken down, and who end up going into state care, are particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless. However, when young people first become homeless, their friends and their friends' families commonly provide shelter and support. This is referred to by the vernacular term 'couch-surfing'. Where young people have extended family members, grandmothers or aunts and uncles often try to help. Without resources and support, these informal social support networks typically breakdown. Young families with young children are a significant sub-group in the homeless population, with some 55,000 children passing through SAAP services in a year. The capacity to work with young homeless mothers or couples and their children needs to be improved systemically and a major prevention response must be implemented for families deemed at-risk of homelessness.

Chapter 6 | Families in Crisis

Oh, I became homeless because my mum died and my step dad abused me and I went to my uncle's and then I got kicked out of there because after all that happened I suppose I was a bit angry, but wasn't aware that's why I was angry. I was just a teenager. Yeah, I was about 12 then, and then I went to live with my grandparents and they were into drugs and stuff. So, I couldn't live there either...¹

Introduction

6.1 Young people tend to leave home prematurely when life at home becomes intolerable or relationships fracture. Behind each precipitous departure from home there is often a story of a family under enormous pressure, where the responsible adults fail to parent, care and adequately protect their child for a variety of complex human and structural reasons.

6.2 In Melbourne, the manager of a youth refuge spoke of his observations about why young people become homeless:

The litany of the causes of youth homelessness is extensive. We can all rattle off a list that will include such things such as mental illness, abuse, poverty, problematic substance abuse, pregnancy, etc, etc, etc. We see these young people every day. However, there seems to be a commonality amongst the young people who come to the refuge, a feature that is the same no matter the configuration of other issues. That is that each young person has experienced the erosion or the defeat of a significant relationship, usually with an adult and usually with an adult, who, in an ideal world, has the role of providing unconditional love and care. And our experience - and we are sure in the experience of other service providers - this is an inescapable reality. Some of these relationships can be restored and some will not be and some should not be.²

6.3 This chapter will look primarily at the evidence presented to the Inquiry about the role of family in youth homelessness and at the factors that impede a family's ability to protect its emotional and support relationships and to care for and shelter its children into adulthood. Some individual level risk factors are looked at in this chapter, but young peoples' mental health and substance use problems are dealt with separately in Chapters

10 and 11. The structural factors affecting the ability of families to care for their children are discussed in more detail in Chapter 7 Poverty.

Families

6.4 Although there are some important exceptions, for most young people the step away from home is a step away from a nuclear family in crisis. For some young people extended family members provide the next stop. The story of informal extended family placements is often a story of a second tier of family in crisis. For other young people, friends' families provide the next home becoming, in turn, a third tier of family in crisis.

6.5 Not all young people leaving home prematurely have been living in a nuclear family with their parents. The Inquiry heard particular evidence relating to refugee young people leaving what has been described as constructed families, comprising extended family members who may not necessarily know each other well or share bonds of affection.³ The Inquiry also heard of young refugees leaving nuclear families comprising members who have experienced significant periods of separation prior to coming to Australia.⁴

6.6 Southern Ethnic Advisory Advocacy Council (Victoria) talked about the families it works with:

*... you have families who are reunited who may not have even lived with each other or seen each other for several years so you suddenly have mothers trying to relate to their children when they have been separated for periods of time.*⁵

6.7 Some young people leave home following unresolved conflict and a breakdown of their relationship with a parent or parents. Other young people may leave a partner and move into homelessness, often with accompanying children. Others leave as singles, but form families during their period of homelessness. Yet others become homeless along with their parents as dependent children. This chapter will look at the crises experienced by all of these combinations of family.

6.8 The evidence submitted to the Inquiry about the causes of youth homelessness is largely congruent with the evidence contained in the Burdekin Report.⁶ A slight difference surfaced in relation to the volume of evidence about whether there are incentives for young people to leave home. The NYC received almost no evidence that such incentives exist. Of the scant evidence provided, one mention was made of peer group myths about generous support payments being available for those leaving home⁷ and there was a suggestion from a parent that the prospect of losing independent Centrelink benefits provides a financial disincentive to return home⁸. The Inquiry received a great deal of evidence of support from the homelessness sector for programs that aim to reunify families where it is safe to do so.⁹ Chapter 13 Early Intervention provides a detailed examination of service responses aimed at supporting and reconciling families and curtailing homelessness. Chapter 9 discusses the relationship between youth homelessness and protective services. Indigenous homelessness is covered in Chapter 12.

Primary Family Under Stress

6.9 A number of witnesses to the Inquiry raised family breakdown as the rubric under which a multitude of factors that place young people at risk of homelessness can be placed.¹⁰ UnitingCare Burnside cited family breakdown “... as the main cause of youth homelessness” and provided the following list of aggravating factors, which contains structural and familial elements:

- parental unemployment;
- mental illness;
- substance abuse;
- physical, sexual and emotional abuse;
- domestic violence;
- neglect;
- inter-generational poverty;
- overcrowding in small homes;
- poor communication skills;
- complex family dynamics.¹¹

Other witnesses provided evidence that teased out these factors or provided additional personal and familial items that acted as reasons for leaving or played a significant role in increasing stress levels in families:

- death of a parent;¹²
- rejection by a parent;¹³
- disability;¹⁴
- refugee status;¹⁵
- cultural and generational conflict;¹⁶
- blended family conflict;¹⁷
- sexual and gender identity;¹⁸
- poor parenting skills;¹⁹

6.10 Witnesses across Australia provided accounts of young people leaving complex family backgrounds. An indicative selection of evidence is included here to provide a glimpse into the families of origin of homeless and at-risk young people and some of the behaviours, situations and problems both the young people themselves and their families can face.

6.11 In Melbourne, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society told the Inquiry that same sex attracted young people are over-represented in the homeless population.²⁰ The Research Centre recounted the words of a number of young people in the context of disclosing their sexuality in a cultural environment that can be hostile:

“My father and stepmother believed I wouldn’t be gay if they knocked it out of me, and quite literally used to slam my head against the wall. It gave me a headache, but I’m still gay.” Or, “... My father has been physically violent towards me since I was 12. I think it may have been because he had suspicions about my sexuality. I’ve been committed into a hospital ward a number of times and have almost been bound to a wheelchair” and on it goes. And, then there was the mother who threw out her daughter and said, “Don’t come back, until you give your heart to Jesus.”²¹

6.12 The Inquiry heard that violence is not always directed towards young people by parents. A number of services reported an increase in violence directed towards parents.²² In Tasmania, the Inquiry heard from a manager of a number of early intervention programs:

We are finding a very significant number of Reconnect clients once we engage with the parents actually report violence from the young person.²³

6.13 The Commissioners were advised that levels of shame were high and parents needed to know they could trust a service before they were willing to disclose the problem. A program manager voiced an additional concern about the welfare of young perpetrators in states where family violence legislation excludes perpetrators from their homes.

6.14 Many witnesses spoke of sexual assault occurring within families. Anglicare WA’s YES! Housing described the abuse of one young woman it had supported:

She left her mother’s house where there was a complex history of family trauma and abuse, including sexual abuse by her father and a cousin. She left a bedroom in which seven people were sleeping in, including one of the abusers, and stayed with friends and family then was referred to a youth hostel, SAAP service, by a disability service worker.²⁴

In Brisbane, Zig Zag Young Women’s Resource Centre told the Inquiry that it provides both housing and long-term therapeutic sexual assault counselling because the correlation between young women and sexual assault and homelessness is so strong.²⁵

6.15 The Inquiry heard that at-risk and homeless young people from culturally and linguistically diverse families and young people from refugee families report problems with cultural and generational conflict.²⁶ In terms of refugee and newly arrived families, a school social worker from Tasmania echoed the observations of many others about the gulf that can open up between parents and children:

The young people come to school, and they assimilate really quickly and take on Western values and want to do Western things: Australian things. So we often see family dysfunction and breakdown with the clash of cultures. The one thing that parents could reasonably expect to control is their young people. Their lives have had a lot of things out of control, so a lot of effort goes into raising their children the way they see they should. So, it causes huge conflict if the kids start rejecting those ways.²⁷

6.16 Witnesses submitted evidence about the problem of parental mental illness

in the families of homeless and at-risk young people.²⁸ One young woman wrote to the Inquiry about parental mental illness being the cause of her homelessness and her mother's rejection being the reason why she left:

*I left home just after my 15th birthday. My mum was suffering from depression at the time that I was kicked out. She had previously kicked out my other siblings, which included a sister younger than myself. I wish I had never been kicked out ...*²⁹

6.17 Witnesses also submitted evidence about parental substance abuse, with many young people citing it as their reason for leaving home.³⁰ Launceston City Mission spoke about the experience of talking to young people in youth detention about their background:

*... "Where's your mum and dad?" "Oh, dad's in jail for drug smuggling and dealing and mum died of an overdose" ... Every single one, there are drugs in their story.*³¹

6.18 In Victoria, one young person recalled the difficulties he and his family faced between the time his parents separated when he was three years old and his eventual departure from his mother's home:

*... originally I moved out with my mum and then I moved in with my dad after that, after a couple of years. And then we moved around a bit around Warrnambool, and then I was playing up a bit with my stepmum and that and problems arised there, so it had been probably best if I moved in with mum, to try and break that tension down a bit. But for some reason I was playing up there as well and getting into trouble and getting suspended and all of that, and been a bad boy, basically.*³²

6.19 A number of witnesses submitted evidence about the death of a parent triggering a family crisis that leads to homelessness.³³ One young woman identified her mother's death as the trigger in a chain of events that led to her homelessness:

*Well, my housing crisis situation all started when my mum passed away ...*³⁴

6.20 The Community Living Association advised the Inquiry that people with intellectual disabilities are over represented in the homeless population, that some enter homelessness from care and protection placements while others move from their family home into homelessness.³⁵

6.21 The Inquiry was told that some young people are simply rejected by family. A youth worker from Launceston City Mission talked to the Inquiry about the hard reality of family life:

*I can tell you stories, some of the stories I have heard you know, like mum's got a new boyfriend and gone up to the 14 year-old boy and said, "If you ruin this relationship, you're out."*³⁶

6.22 Sometimes it's less a question of rejection and more an issue of families reaching breaking point. One young man wrote to the Inquiry about why he left home:

*Left home when 15 years old – kicked out for drugs (pot) and adolescent problems. Anger and confusion over what you were meant to be doing.*³⁷

6.23 At other times, the Inquiry heard that parents sometimes have too many personal problems to be able to parent their children. A youth outreach worker in Canberra advised the Inquiry that frequently the young person is quite capable but the parents are chaotic and in need of assistance.³⁸

6.24 The evidence submitted to the Inquiry about the stresses and crises in different young people's families of origin shares the elements of human suffering and family conflict, but the evidence also presents a picture of diversity and complexity where structural causes combine with particular family risk factors and personal vulnerabilities.

Hosting families under stress

6.25 Across Australia witnesses submitted evidence to the Inquiry about young people couch-surfing. In some instances, this amounted to squeezing into shared accommodation with other young people or staying in households where the presence or absence of parental adults was uncertain,³⁹ but in many cases the hosts were clearly identified as the parents of friends or sympathetic adults who were known and trusted by the young person, but were not playing a formal fostering role.⁴⁰ The term couch-surfing can therefore tend to disguise the serious and generous nature of the care being supplied.

6.26 The Inquiry was told about qualitative research suggesting that families accommodating young people informally offer support that mirrors the comprehensive support they provide for their own children:

*Daily tending activities included cooking, washing, and ironing. Accommodating families not only provided daily tending, they did so with an understanding of the broader benefit for the young person. ... Accommodating families provided a range of incidental activity such as transport, taking young people on outings and to extended family activities, and buying birthday and Christmas gifts. These activities enable the young person to participate in 'normal' everyday family activity and ritual.*⁴¹

The research suggests that hosting a young person can become a considerable financial strain. As an example, one family in the study waited eleven months after contacting Centrelink before the young person finally received a benefit.

6.27 A worker in Wagga Wagga told a similar story:

*It's like having a foster child with you, but you're not getting access to financial assistance ... it works okay, if you're in cooperation with their parents and their parents can help foot the bill for some of the food ...*⁴²

6.28 While some young people only stayed briefly with friends' families or trusted adults, the Inquiry heard about living arrangements that were sustained over lengthy periods of time:

... one of my son's friends came to stay because he and his parents weren't getting along. After nine months of staying with us he was eventually reconciled with his parents because they had an opportunity to break.

... Access to supports, would have been especially useful ... I ended up taking on a second

*part-time job while studying full-time in order to meet the added costs of another mouth to feed.*⁴³

6.29 Witnesses provided evidence that families hosting young people feel a clear sense of moral obligation to try and help:

*... I've taken in other young people who are friends with my children, because there was just nowhere for them to go. They were experiencing family problems and they weren't welcome at home. They had nowhere else to go. They didn't want to go the refuge, so we put an offer out and I actually took care of three at different times of my daughters' lives throughout high school.*⁴⁴

6.30 Witnesses submitted evidence that hosting families sometimes contact services for support:

We have also had a number of parents ring us who have taken on the role of looking after one of their children's friends. Often the young person who is the visitor is quite capable, wants to continue school but for various reasons cannot stay at home ...⁴⁵

6.31 There doesn't yet seem to be a widespread dialogue at a sector level about hosting families and the support they might need. However, innovative work on this issue has been done in Queensland by workers associated with the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition (see Rachel Uhr's report *Couch-surfing in the Burbs*). A representative from Shelter SA advised the Inquiry that in spite of working in her job for two years, she could only remember the issue being raised by a sector worker on one occasion.

Broader family under stress

6.32 Many young people begin their life out of home by staying with members of their broader family.⁴⁶ In some cases the move is connected to protective services' involvement, but young people also live with their kin informally without the state playing any part in the arrangement. In this chapter the Inquiry looks at the evidence in relation to the informal arrangements made by young people and their families.

6.33 Some young people move in with extended family after a stay in a homelessness service. The Inquiry heard from Campbell Page, which runs a number of youth services in the Eurobodalla Shire in NSW that young Indigenous people in its area tend to move relatively quickly from crisis housing into extended family.⁴⁷

6.34 The broader family usually has a stronger sense of pre-existing connection with a young family member in need than non-kin. However, the broader family is still likely to experience all of the difficulties experienced by non-kin hosts in terms of the financial and emotional burden of support.

6.35 The broader family can also face problems related to age and stage in life issues. Sometimes it is grandparents who are looking after young people. While there has been some recent work on parenting grandparents that acknowledges the very serious difficulties faced by older family members taking on the care of grandchild, the intersection with youth homelessness has not been the focus of the work.⁴⁸ Nevertheless, much of the material about the stress on grandparent carers aligns with

the extended family material presented to the Inquiry. The report Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the recent snapshot Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren identify financial resources, legal matters, parenting, social supports and health and wellbeing as issues for these older carers.⁴⁹

6.36 One young woman wrote to the Inquiry about the reasons she left home and how she feels about living with her grandmother:

*Mum has bipolar and totally has hated me since I was 3 and my sister was born and my dad is a violent alcoholic and I don't have friends that will let me stay with them. I now live with Nan, but it's like a prison.*⁵⁰

While this young woman clearly finds living with her grandmother very difficult, it's likely that her grandmother is also struggling with the chaos within the lives of the generation below her and with the challenge of having to fill the parenting gap.

6.37 Another group within the broader family that can face problems in relation to age and stage is siblings.⁵¹ The evidence about siblings hosting or caring for siblings was provided by young people and services and suggested that these arrangements were often short term and problematic. One young refugee wrote to the Inquiry about the breakdown of his living arrangements:

*... when I arrived in Australia I start to live with my sister with some family friends. After sometime I couldn't stay there as there was no enough place to stay and the people start hate me. I couldn't even agree with my sister. The time that I stay there I began sleeping on the floor so I had to wait until everyone leave the salon and watching TV. In the morning I had to wake up before everyone whether I have things to do or not because I been sleeping in salon.*⁵²

6.38 In addition to grandparents and siblings, the Inquiry also heard that other members of the extended family are providing care.⁵³ While the age and stage of life problems of siblings and grandparents may not be shared by aunts, uncles and parental generation cousins, the financial, legal, parenting, social and health and wellbeing stresses are. Additionally aunts, uncles and parental generation cousins are more likely to have children of their own and therefore, along with some Indigenous families, be susceptible to overcrowding.

6.39 Extended family members who are willing to offer a home to homeless or at-risk young family members are not currently well supported. This is especially the case when care arrangements are informal and age, stage of life and overcrowding are factors. The Inquiry heard that there is recognition in the homelessness sector of the need to work with extended family:

*... as a sector, one thing I would like to see us doing more - and it's a big problem - is about training and resourcing and skilling your staff, is to somehow engage the community, the natural supports of young people, you know, aunties and uncles, who they might be able to stay with, even if it's not working too well.*⁵⁴

Young families under stress

6.40 Several services drew the Inquiry's attention to an increase in the number of young families they see.⁵⁵ Some of these families are single-parent families, a proportion of which have separated into homelessness.⁵⁶ Many are young women who are pregnant and homeless.⁵⁷ Some are young fathers alone with their children.⁵⁸ Some are young couples with children.⁵⁹

6.41 The Inquiry was advised that many of the homeless young women who are pregnant and parenting are homeless as a result of domestic violence and sexual assault.⁶⁰

6.42 The homelessness of young parents is the direct cause of the homelessness of their dependent children; the at-risk status of young parents causes the same in their dependent children. In addition to the immediate problems faced by young families and their children, the Inquiry heard that children of homeless families are themselves at risk of repeat homelessness when they grow up.⁶¹

6.43 The ACT Council of Social Service spoke about the need for resources for preventative work with children in the refuge population:

What I was seeing in refuges in Canberra is third and fourth generation SAAP clients, and it was really alarming to walk out to an 18 year-old with her six-week old baby and say how is this for you being in a refuge, and having her say, "Oh, it's great. ... I remember being here as a kid. It's the best time in my life," ... Her mother had been there and her mother's mother had been there. So the baby was fourth generation of one refuge in Canberra, and it was seen as normal.⁶²

*This is one group of young people where intensive support on an around-the-clock basis is clearly important. Corroboration for this observation can be found in two senate reports *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced out of home care as children* (August 2004) and *Protecting vulnerable children: a national challenge, the second report from the inquiry* (August 2004).*

6.44 Barnardos Australia advised the Inquiry that it is seeing very young families who struggle to stay together:

... because of inability to pay for housing. Young parents at 16, 17 and 18 have enormous difficulties affording housing and in addition they need substantial mentoring and support in the parenting role.⁶³

The Inquiry heard that young people accessing services are sometimes required to break up their family unit. Shelter SA gave an example:

... we recently had a call from a couple who were seeking emergency accommodation. They were 15 years old and pregnant. They had been offered emergency accommodation but it required them to be separated and they didn't want that. Yet, that was the only facility available to youth.⁶⁴

Melbourne Youth Support Service advised the Inquiry that young couples are not

*recognised in the welfare sector, in spite of the reality that they can be engaged in supportive long-term relationships.*⁶⁵

6.45 A number of witnesses gave evidence about children coming to the attention of protective services and being removed from young homeless and at-risk families.⁶⁶ While it's impossible to comment on the appropriateness of such interventions, many young people experience them as discriminatory and persecutory.⁶⁷ One young mother told the Inquiry:

*... I went to hospital to give birth, after I gave birth to my daughter, the Department of Child Safety ... they did a drug test on me daughter, which I wasn't too happy about, because they did that behind my back - nice of them to tell me. Nothing come up there. They tried to get me for two sleeping pills, but I got prescribed them to take before I had to give birth. And then, I moved into a mother and babies home, that the Department of Child Safety put me in ... I did the whole three-month parenting program, and then they take me daughter off me. [She broke down crying here.] They take her off me for no reason at all. I'd done nothing wrong. I want her back ...*⁶⁸

6.46 In Darwin, Health Connections for Youth gave evidence that a lack of positive parental role modelling makes parenting very difficult for some young homeless families:

*... a lot of these young people need -- they have often grown up in families where they haven't been parented or come from care systems, or just dysfunctional family environments. That is something that really impacts on their ability to provide parenting to their little babies.*⁶⁹

6.47 A recent report, Opportunity for Change, on homelessness and young mothers, suggests that becoming a parent can be a positive, life-changing experience.⁷⁰ While young mothers reported life becoming harder, motherhood was seen to add meaning to existence and provided an incentive for reducing or eliminating harmful behaviour. Areas where young mothers were particularly vulnerable included a susceptibility to depression, partner violence and social isolation. Young mothers also experienced delays in educational and employment opportunities, faced poverty and found services for adult women difficult to relate to. The findings of the report are consistent with the evidence presented to the Inquiry.

6.48 Kardinia Women's Service Network (Victoria) spoke to the Inquiry of the extreme stigma attached to being adolescent and pregnant and the savage impact the public's behaviour has on young women's self-esteem. One worker recounted regular instances of shocking public abuse, including young women being told they are disgusting.⁷¹ This added pressure was applied at a time when the young women and the workers were attempting to concentrate on nutrition, shopping and budgeting in order to prepare for life with a baby:

And, people are judging them every step that they take, and that is something like that is just ongoing. It is very hard to address it there and then, because you don't want anything to, you know, happen, but you need to talk about it with the young person.

*But, [talk] doesn't stop that stigma. That stigma is just there and to be told that you're disgusting ... I mean some young women are not pregnant through choice, they are pregnant through sexual assault, and so that then starts to roller coaster emotions. I have been with young women who are in a supermarket, and they just break down crying because they are sick of the looks, they are sick of everything. You know, the baby might be crying and people are looking at them and judging them for that baby crying.*⁷²

6.49 In Hobart, a teacher working in alternative education talked about young pregnant women being viewed as singles:

*... young women are pregnant but they are not given any other consideration until some time after the child is born, because they're not considered as having a dependent until after they give birth to the child, but that means for the entire period of the pregnancy, they can be quite severely homeless sleeping in streets or in cars or whatever and that has a major impact on their health and for them and the child. ... So there's a huge stress placed on young women in that situation and often the young fathers, too, who want to be involved in parenting. They are equally stressed trying to provide for a child and have no secure accommodation.*⁷³

6.50 The pressures on young homeless and at-risk families are immense and so are the pressures on their children. The Inquiry heard that the effects of homelessness on children are significant:

*The trauma and stress of homelessness affects children in different ways and their vulnerability is also influenced by their stage of development. Children experience a number of negative educational, social and health consequences as a result of homelessness. Children experiencing homelessness often display behavioural problems such as aggression or withdrawal, and may experience other psychological problems such as depression and low self-esteem. Young parents in homeless families are also at risk of depression, anxiety, and other challenges to their own psychological development and coping skills, that may in turn impact on their ability to care adequately for their children.*⁷⁴

6.51 The evidence in relation to service responses to young families is examined in Chapters 13 Early Intervention and 17 Health.

Conclusions

6.52 The role of family in the lives of homeless and at-risk young people is complex and involves a number of different levels of family, including young people's family of origin, the families of their friends, their broader family and the families they create for themselves. These various levels of family can frequently experience stress and crisis, but they also provide temporal and spatial opportunities for early interventions that can prevent homelessness or ameliorate the suffering it causes.

Recommendation 6.1

The NYC Inquiry recommends that the Commonwealth Government progressively expand the HOME Advice program as a preventive response for families at-risk of becoming homeless to at least \$60 million per year.

6.53 The needs of young families is evident in the homelessness statistics and some agencies have responded with specific responses for young mothers or young parents with children. Being homeless with young children raises the risk of protective services interventions. Young couples are often not able to be accommodated together in a refuge or an accommodation service. Apart from women's services able to provide a response for women with children where domestic violence is a major issue, the capacity of generalist youth SAAP services to provide the full range of support for young families is limited.

Recommendation 6.2

The NYC Inquiry recommends that the needs of young families who are homeless be addressed within the youth homelessness service system by providing services designed to support this group and/or specialist support workers who can work with pregnant mothers, young families with young children and children.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007.
- 2 P. Hogan, Fitzroy Homeless Youth Program, Youth and Family Services, Salvation Army Crossroads, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007.
- 3 A. Buxton, Anglicare NT, Darwin Day 3, 03-04-2007.
- 4 R. Lachelini, Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council, Melbourne Day 14, 24-04-2007; Submission 65, Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, National Multicultural Youth Issues Network of Australia.
- 5 R. Lachelini, Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council, Melbourne Day 14, 24-04-2007.
- 6 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (1989) Our homeless children, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
- 7 Submission 14, Al.
- 8 Submission 89, S. James.
- 9 See for example Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Submission 38, Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies; Submission 46, Anglicare Tasmania; Submission 42, Australia Federation of Homelessness Organisations; and Submission 88, Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation.
- 10 For example: M. Coffey, Youth Accommodation Association of NSW, Sydney Day 8, 16-04-2007; Submission 78, UnitingCare Burnside; Submission 45, Youth Network of Tasmania, Shelter Tasmania and the Tasmania Council of Social Service; M. Graham, Lowana Youth Services, Canberra Day 11, 19-04-2007.
- 11 Submission 78, UnitingCare Burnside.
- 12 For example: Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007.
- 13 For example: Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 5; K. Treasure, Launceston City Mission, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
- 14 For example Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Submission 72, At Risk Research and Outreach Service, Community Living; Submission 6, Community Living Association.
- 15 For example J. Taylor, Community Development, Port Adelaide Enfield Council, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007; N. Heiniger, Launceston College, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007; Submission 66, Homeless

- Persons' Legal Clinic, Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House with Brisbane Youth Service, Salvation Army Youth Outreach Service, Australian Red Cross.
- 16 For example A. Tran, Reconnect Punchbowl, Mission Australia, Sydney Day 8, 16-04-2007; T. Phillips, Aurala, Save the Children Fund (Queensland Branch), Brisbane Day 5, 10-04-2007; B. Smith, Southern Riverina Youth Support Services, Wagga Wagga Day 10, 18-04-2007.
 - 17 For example Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Young Person, Warrnambool Day 2, 27-03-2007; K. Treasure, Launceston City Mission, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 18 For example L. Hillier, Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society and A. Mitchell, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007; Submission 55, Twenty10 GLBT Youth Support.
 - 19 For example J. Baldock, Palmerston High School, Darwin Day 4, 04-04-2007; T. Lee, Health Connections for Youth, Anglicare NT, Darwin Day 3, 03-04-2007; C. Swan, Campbell Page, Wagga Wagga Day 10, 18-04-2007; D. Shearim, Reconnect Round 2, Relationships Australia, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 20 L. Hillier, Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society and A. Mitchell, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007.
 - 21 L. Hillier, Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007.
 - 22 T. Timms, Next Step Youth Drug and Alcohol Services, Perth, Day 20, 08-06-2007; L. Owen, Time for Youth, Geelong Day 1, 26-03-2007; I. Stokes, Family Services Unit, Colony 47, Hobart Day 17, 03-05-2007.
 - 23 I. Stokes, Family Services Unit, Colony 47, Hobart Day 17, 03-05-2007.
 - 24 R. Logie, YES! Housing, Anglicare WA, Perth Day 19, 07-06-2007.
 - 25 J. McKay, Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007.
 - 26 For example R. Lachelini, Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council, Melbourne Day 14, 24-04-2007; C Garcia, Multicultural Youth SA, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007; T. Phillips, Aurala, Save the Children Fund (Queensland Branch), Brisbane Day 5, 10-04-2007; A. Tran, Reconnect Punchbowl, Mission Australia, Sydney Day 8, 16-04-2007.
 - 27 N. Heiniger, Launceston College, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 28 For example M. Johnson, Shelter SA, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007; Submission 10, Central Gippsland Regional Youth Affairs Network; Young Person, NYC Survey, 4.
 - 29 Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 10.
 - 30 For example Submission 37, South Port Community Housing Group; K. Treasure, Launceston City Mission, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 31 K. Treasure, Launceston City Mission, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 32 Young Person, Warrnambool Day 2, 27-03-2007.
 - 33 For example Submission 37, South Port Community Housing Group; Young Person, Darwin Day 4, 04-04-2007; S. Rowe, Salvation Army Crossroads West, Perth Day 19, 07-06-2007.
 - 34 Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007.
 - 35 Submission 6, Community Living Association
 - 36 K. Treasure, Launceston City Mission, Launceston Day 18, 04-05-2007.
 - 37 Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 9.
 - 38 Submission 18, M. Munro.
 - 39 For example P. Schwarz, Open Family, Canberra Day 11, 19-04-2007; J. Gannon, Streetlink, UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide, Adelaide Day 16, 27-04-2007; Submission 28, Living Water Uniting Church; Submission 3, Anglican Community Care, Attachment 1; Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 11.
 - 40 For example M. Johnson, Shelter SA, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007; Submission 18, M. Munro; P. Hogan, Fitzroy Homeless Youth Program, Youth and Family Services, Salvation Army Crossroads, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007; Submission 30, Centacare Wagga Wagga; Submission 12, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-op.
 - 41 Submission 5, A. Thompson, Attachment 1 Putting 'accommodating' families in the picture.
 - 42 N. Johnson, RCC Employment and Training, Wagga Wagga Day 10, 18-04-2007.
 - 43 M. Johnson, Shelter SA, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007.
 - 44 N. Johnson, RCC Employment and Training, Wagga Wagga Day 10, 18-04-2007.
 - 45 Submission 18, M. Munro.
 - 46 For example Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 2; Submission 37, South Port Community Housing Group; H. Mildred, Eastern Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Melbourne Day 14,

- 24-04-2007.
- 47 C. Swan, Campbell Page, Wagga Wagga Day 10, 18-04-2007.
- 48 N. Patton (2003) The effects of parental drug use, children in kinship care a review of the literature, Mirabel Foundation, Melbourne; G. Ochilree (2006) 'The Changing Role of Grandparents', Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse Briefing n 2, Australian Institute of Family Studies, available at <<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/b2pdf/b2.pdf>>; Council on the Ageing National Seniors (2003) Grandparents raising grandchildren, Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, available at <[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/VIA/grandparents/\\$File/GrandparentsRaisingGrandchildrenReport.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/VIA/grandparents/$File/GrandparentsRaisingGrandchildrenReport.pdf)>; Mission Australia (2007) Grandparents raising their grandchildren, Snapshot, Mission Australia, Sydney, available at <http://www.mission.com.au/cm//resources/documents/Grandparents_Snapshot.pdf>.
- 49 Council on the Ageing National Seniors (2003) Grandparents raising grandchildren, Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra, available at <[http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/VIA/grandparents/\\$File/GrandparentsRaisingGrandchildrenReport.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/VIA/grandparents/$File/GrandparentsRaisingGrandchildrenReport.pdf)>; Mission Australia (2007) Grandparents raising their grandchildren, Snapshot, Mission Australia, Sydney, available at <http://www.mission.com.au/cm//resources/documents/Grandparents_Snapshot.pdf>.
- 50 Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 4.
- 51 For example Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 1; R. Logie, YES! Housing, Anglicare WA, Perth Day 19, 07-06-2007; Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 2; Submission 37, South Port Community Housing Group.
- 52 Young Person, NYC Youth Survey, 2.
- 53 For example F. Ung, South East Asian Reconnect, Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia, Adelaide Day 16, 27-04-2007; Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007; H. Mildred, Eastern Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Melbourne Day 14, 24-04-2007.
- 54 M. Visschedijk, YWCA Canberra, Canberra Day 11, 19-04-2007.
- 55 For example S. Carlile, Family Access Network, Melbourne Day 13, 23-04-2007; Submission 15, St John's Youth Services; Submission 41, Barnardos Australia.
- 56 For example A. Cresswell, ACT Council of Social Service, Canberra Day 12, 20-04-2007; Submission 65, Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, National Multicultural Youth Issues Network of Australia.
- 57 For example D. Berg, Kardinia Women's Services Network, Geelong Day 1, 26-03-2007; Submission 15, St John's Youth Services.
- 58 For example Submission 41, Barnardos Australia.
- 59 For example Submission 15, St John's Youth Services; Submission 41, Barnardos Australia; D. Berg, Kardinia Women's Services Network, Geelong Day 1, 26-03-2007.
- 60 For example S. Crane, Dawn House, Darwin Day 4, 04-04-2007; T. French, Sharehouse Youth Accommodation, Townsville Day 7, 12-04-2007; D. Ireson, Adolescent Mother Support Service and Innovative Health Services for Homeless Youth, Perth Day 19, 07-06-2007.
- 61 A. Cresswell, ACT Council of Social Service, Canberra Day 12, 20-04-2007; Submission 1, Barwon South West Homelessness Network.
- 62 A. Cresswell, ACT Council of Social Service, Canberra Day 12, 20-04-2007.
- 63 Submission 41, Barnardos Australia.
- 64 M. Johnson, Shelter SA, Adelaide Day 15, 26-04-2007.
- 65 Submission 27, Melbourne Youth Support Service.
- 66 For example T. Phillips, Aurala, Save the Children Fund (Queensland Branch), Brisbane Day 5, 10-04-2007; Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007; Parent, Townsville Day 7, 12-04-2007; Young Person, Brisbane Day 5, 10-04-2007.
- 67 For example Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007; Parent Townsville Day 7, 12-04-2007; Young Person, Brisbane Day 5, 10-04-2007.
- 68 Young Person, Brisbane Day 6, 11-04-2007.
- 69 T. Lee, Health Connections for Youth, Anglicare NT, Darwin Day 3, 03-04-2007.
- 70 Keys, D (2007) Opportunity for change, young motherhood and homelessness, Key Centre for Women's in Society, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, available at <http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/59865/BAM_report.pdf>.
- 71 D. Berg, Kardinia Women's Services Network, Geelong Day 1, 26-03-2007.
- 72 Ibid.
- 73 A. Mercae, Alted Elizabeth College, Hobart Day 17, 03-05-2007.
- 74 Submission 51, Starting Out, Connections Child, Youth and Family Services.