

HOMELESSNESS STUDENT RESOURCE

swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity

MADE BY THE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM

CREATING A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL SWINBURNE COMMUNITY.

Students can often experience homelessness over a period of time at university, with many living in overcrowded accommodation. With housing costs on the rise, it's becoming increasingly difficult for students on low income to afford housing. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, there are services available for support.

For more information regarding short-term crisis accommodation, visit:

swinburne.edu.au/crisisaccommodation

What is homelessness?

At the most basic level, homelessness is defined by not having access to safe, suitable, or secure accommodation. It is also a problem that goes beyond having access to safe shelter. Homelessness can be experienced by people who have a roof over their head, but don't have any right to stay where they live, or people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another.

Some common experiences:

- Sleeping rough
- Sleeping in a car/tent
- Sleeping in university libraries
- Insecure housing
- Living in a hotel
- Couch-surfing
- Temporary/makeshift dwelling
- Squatting
- Refuge accommodation
- Crisis accommodation
- Overcrowded boarding or rooming houses
- Emergency housing

What are some of the causes of homelessness?

For many students, juggling study and part-time jobs can be difficult. In addition, becoming homeless can often be the result of a number of complex issues:

- Intergenerational poverty
- Lack of income/access to employment
- Cost of living

- Lack of affordable housing
- Young people exiting from the care system
- Family violence
- Alcohol and drug addiction
- Traumatic events
- Interpersonal problems
- Mental illness
- Health problems and disabilities
- Discrimination
- Family and relationship breakdown
- Relocation

What are the impacts of homelessness?

Homelessness can seriously impact individuals in different areas of their lives. Some adverse affects of homelessness include:

- Extreme levels of distress
- Exacerbation of mental health issues
- Development of behavioural problems
- Difficulty accessing employment/study
- Low self-esteem
- Increased risk of abuse and violence
- Substance abuse
- Difficulty participating in classes
- Poor health due to inability to access health care
- Discrimination
- Lack of transportation
- Being unable to obtain identification documents
- Experiencing reoccurring problems with the law
- Social isolation

Some statistics (Australia)*

Roughly 116,000 people are homeless at any given night in Australia.

Of those affected:

- 60% are under 35 years old
- 20% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 15% are born overseas
- 13% suffer from mental illness
- 14% experienced a sudden loss of employment
- 34% are escaping family violence situations
- 54% are unable to afford housing
- 7% are rough sleeping, often for a short time
- 15% are boarding and couch surfing
- 18% are in supported accommodation
- 44% are in severely crowded dwellings

*Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016

ON CAMPUS SUPPORT

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Access information for on and off campus, short and long-term accommodation for Swinburne students.

swinburne.edu.au/current-students/student-services-support/accommodation/

STUDENT COUNSELLING

If you are struggling with a personal, emotional or mental health difficulty, whether related to your studies or your life away from university, counselling may help. On-site social workers can provide accommodation advice and support. Register and make an appointment.

03 9214 8483

swinburne.edu.au/counselling

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT

Provides advice and support to international students with all aspects related to living and studying in Melbourne. You can contact an International Student Advisor if you are in need of short-term or emergency accommodation support and after-hours assistance.

03 9214 6741

accommodation@swin.edu.au

swinburne.edu.au/current-students/student-services-support/supportfor-international-students

FINANCIAL ADVICE

If you require financial and/or accommodation advice or assistance, you can speak to an equity advisor.

03 9214 8882

equity@swin.edu.au

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The Student Emergency Fund has been established to support students who have been impacted by an emergency such as a bushfire, drought or health pandemic.

swinburne.edu.au/study/options/scholarships/411/swinburne-studentemergency-fund/

SAFER COMMUNITY

Safer Community offers advice, support, intervention, and risk management for students who experience or witness inappropriate, concerning or threatening behaviours on or off campus. You can get in touch with the team by email or via the online reporting form:

safercommunity@swin.edu.au

swinburne.edu.au/incident-reporting-form

swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity

SWINBURNE SECURITY

Contact campus security services for emergencies on campus, after hours assistance or for a security escort.

03 9214 3333

CRISIS LINE - OUT OF HOURS

The Swinburne crisis line is available to help 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays, and outside business hours on weekdays (before 9am and after 5pm).

Call **1300 854 144**

Text **0488 884 145**

INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Swinburne Student Life provides policy advice, support and guidance in academic issues, and advocates for best outcomes in complaints, grievances, appeals and misconduct hearings.

03 9214 5445

studentlife@swin.edu.au

swinburne.edu.au/current-students/student-services-support/independent-advocacy-for-students

ACCESSABILITY

AccessAbility services advises students who have a disability, medical or mental health condition, or primary carer responsibilities on what reasonable adjustments can be made to ensure equal opportunity to access and participate in their education at Swinburne.

03 9214 5234

swinburne.edu.au/accessability

OFF CAMPUS SUPPORT

POLICE

National emergency response and reporting.

In emergencies call **000**

[police.vic.gov.au](https://www.police.vic.gov.au)

LIFELINE

24/7 phone crisis support and suicide prevention.

13 11 14

[lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au)

EHEADSPACE

A confidential, free and secure space to chat to qualified youth mental health professionals.

[eheadspace.org.au](https://www.eheadspace.org.au)

VICTORIA HOMELESSNESS RESOURCES

If you are experiencing homelessness you can contact your local housing service and meet with an Initial Assessment & Planning worker who will assess your situation and provide you with Emergency Accommodation. A full list of these services can be found through the State Government of Victoria homelessness resources, which provides details for those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, escaping family violence or in urgent need of somewhere to stay.

services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-help

BOND ASSISTANCE

If you need assistance with bond, you can apply for a bond through HousingVic. HousingVic is managed by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, and provides information about housing and housing assistance in Victoria.

housing.vic.gov.au/rentassist-bond-loan