

Youth Homelessness in the Illawarra



**What does it mean to be a Homeless
teenager in the Illawarra?**

‘Because they’re tough
Kids doesn’t mean we
Should put them in the
Too-hard basket and
Believe that nothing
Can ever change.’

– Captain Paul Moulds, Director of the Oasis Youth Refuge

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Log

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November:

I had no idea of my PIP topic at all by the first stages I just kept trying to think About a good topic that I found to be interesting.

December:

Still not too sure about a topic I had some thoughts on teenage drinking or Youth Homelessness. I have just browsed through some sites to find Sufficient information and which one of these topics is going to be interesting To do my PIP research on.

January:

From the amounts of research I have found and I feel it to be interesting and A good PIP topic I am going more towards Youth Homelessness.

February:

I have chosen Youth Homelessness in the illawarra. I'm continually Researching and collecting articles for content analysis.

No interviews or surveys have been added yet, but my research is becoming

more in depth.

March:

Today I began planning the structure of my PIP as part of an assessment task For Society and Culture, which required me to plan out methodologies and Propose courses of action. I had a talk with my teacher to let her know what I Was going to do and the helpful suggestions, like organising the structure and Ideas of methodologies that would be appropriate in my PIP that my teacher Has given to me.

April:

I began my secondary research and reviews relating to Homeless today, and Began to write my survey questions and interview. Today I attended a Workers home for whom she works for St Vincent de Paul with the our Homeless Youth, she has asked for her name to be kept confidential. It was Very informative and helpful for the process of my PIP.

Today I finished my analysis of the data o collected from my primary research And I have completed my secondary research into Youth homelessness trying To keep in time with planned timetable of research so far.

May:

Today I began my secondary research into youth homelessness using literary Reviews of text books and internet web-sites. I also began my statistics Analysis with data retrieved from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Regarding youth Homeless.

June:

Today I completed my secondary research of youth homeless and completed Analysing my data retrieved from my surveys and interviews.

July:

I have gathered all information together to make graphs and charts to make Relevant my information to prove my theory and state my opinions and other People who I have spoken to and that have answered my surveys on the Youth homelessness.

August:

I am just putting everything together and at the final stages of printing out My final copy and getting it binded.

Introduction

Introduction

The content of this PIP is illustrated in the topic statement:

“Teenage Homelessness in the Illawarra: What does it mean to be a homeless teenager in the Illawarra? “

My argument is such that the homelessness in the Illawarra of teenagers has Doubled in the last 20 years, as there are fewer facilities around and not as Many shelters and help available to vacate the increasing amount. There was Recorded 22000 teens found homeless in the last 20 years. Progress has been Made over the past 20 years but despite improved services and innovation Homelessness remains a major social problem. Because of the increasing Number of people that are included with the care and protection system may Have an effect on the homelessness numbers and could well again double Over the next 20 years.

I am trying to create awareness that there aren't enough funds and attention Being put to the youth homeless and how there be not many facilities like: Shelters or help to support the homeless Youth that just keeps increasing as the years are going by.

My first aim was to become more educated, and therefore I can become more aware and let you know exactly what it means to be a homeless youth Person in the Illawarra region. I have chosen this topic because it's one of our largest problems at the moment, and its increasingly dramatic of the numbers of homeless that is about in our streets, even though the Government has increased its funds and more shelters are available.

To achieve this plan, I will use literary reviews, statistic analysis, surveys, interviews and personal reflection in order to discover more about youth homelessness. Through using a various range of qualitative and quantitative data that I can use in my PIP. I hope to find a personal connection with this by giving money donations to ST Vincent de Paul, and to understand more the strong thoughts people have with our homeless youth so that I can become more educated and help out wherever I can.

Chapter 1

Before beginning my test of youth homelessness in the illawarra, I felt it was necessary to investigate and learn about each type of different homeless group there is such as:

Runaway Youth	Runaways are youth who have left a home environment and who, in Theory, could go back home. Most of them go home but the rest runaway and are seen in shelters and around The country.
Throwaway youth	They come from stable living conditions, have been thrown out for Many reasons. Some have mental issues or substance abuse, and the parents don't know what to say other Than 'Get Out'.
Homeless youth	Don't have a place to return to. Come From dysfunctional families. These people are on the streets and lack any family support. Where they might return to.

Progress has been made over the past 20 years but despite improved services and innovation homelessness remains a major social problem. Recent trends that have been in the housing market and the increasing number of the Young people involved with the care and protection system indicate that Youth homelessness could well worsen and increase over the next 20 years. I have found that the increase is worse because of the so many different Things that are affecting these teenagers and I feel that it has a lot to do with Family wellbeing and the way that you are brought up, parents can't handle all the problems that these children have so those just have to tell them all to leave and find their own paths in life. These youth then become homeless and live on streets because they have no jobs, no family support or turn to Alcohol substance.

The census of 2009 said that majority of the homeless of youth were single in total of these single were 57,182 which was 55% because in this year they counted that 105,000. These numbers are astonishing and it's not very good that all these homeless are out alone this was according to Australian Bureau of Statistics.

How young people find themselves Homeless

Young people will rarely leave home without having an alternate place for Living. There are still many who are forced out, due to violent, sexual or racial abuse, poverty and family conflict.

There are many reasons why youth homelessness end up like this. Family and relationship breakdowns are the most common factor.

Other issues that youth might be homeless is due to:

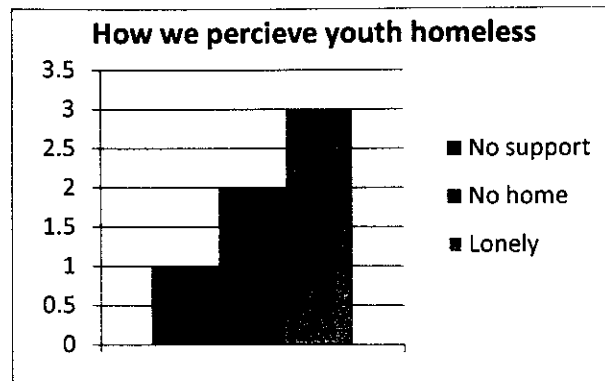
- **Unemployment**
- **Drug and alcohol abuse**
- **Mental health problems**
- **Low self-esteem**
- **Can't find employment**

There are quite a lot of services available out there for youth homelessness, people just don't know how to access them, we need to make them aware of all the shelters and charities we offer.

Chapter 2

Youth homeless

What do you perceive youth homeless to be in the illawarra?



From the results of this 20 person survey it is clear that in this group of people

majority found that they would be lonely.

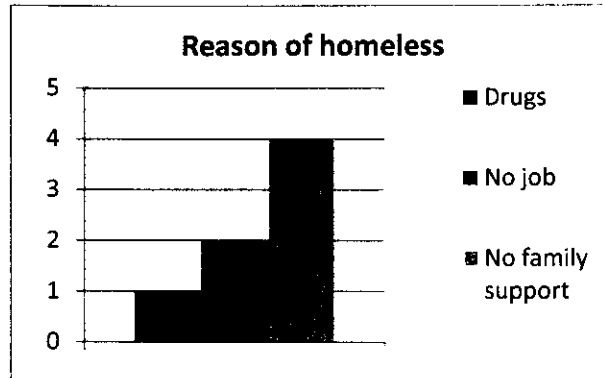
The results of this question in the survey fit in well with my personal opinions,

corresponding with the idea i have that most of our youth homeless are not

the ones to blame for the way they are.

Youth Homeless

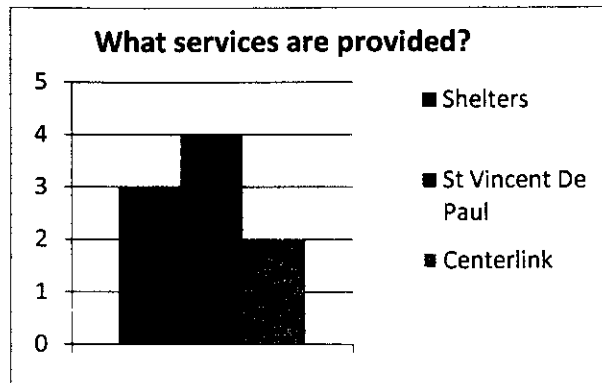
How do you think they become homeless?



From the results of this 20 person survey it is clear that the majority of the group feel that “No family support” has been a major impact on why we have so many teenagers who are left to be homeless. From my initial secondary research into youth homelessness in the illawarra i had learnt that there are many reasons of being homeless and the two main reasons of this situation is the same as what i got from my surveys, No job and no family support.

Youth Homeless

Do you know of any services that these teenagers can go to for any help?

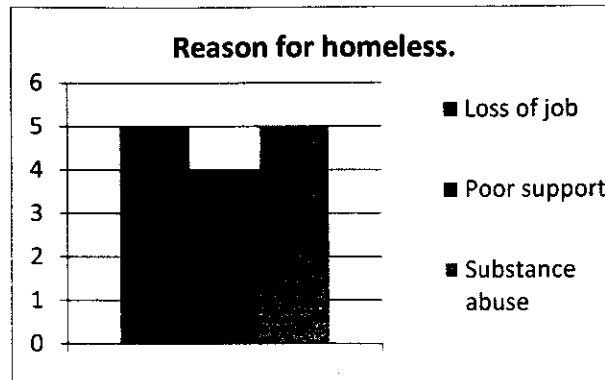


The results of the 20 person survey show that a large proportion of participants feel that there are many services available to help support and give them and give them a chance to find a new and better life so they can find jobs or just to keep them off the streets.

However i didn't have the chance of socialising with anyone who is homeless or in a bad situation of living but from the info i have gathered from the internet, statistics and surveys i have learnt so much and have been educated about the knowledge of youth homeless in the illawarra and what the many reasons and effects are.

Youth Homeless

How do you think these teenagers become homeless?



From the results of this 20 person survey the results clearly show that most of the participants that answered my survey felt that the most impacted cause of these teenagers being homeless and left out on the streets is because of 'substance abuse' and 'loss of jobs'.

This response made me think if i was living on my own and had a job to support me and i one day lost that job i know i would have my family to support me but what if i didn't have my family?, what would of happened Then. That's why we have shelters and St Vincent De Paul there to help our youth homeless that is increasing over the years.

Conclusion

Conclusion

My personal interest project has taught me many things not only in self reflection but also through the analysing of other people's personal opinions, reflections and their circumstances in relation to why it is so that they are homeless and ended up that way.

The purpose of this research was to gain insights into aspects of the everyday behaviour of our youth homeless, as well as to provide cross cultural comparison of what the use of these soup kitchens, community groups, shelters and St Vincent de Paul association who all help out our homeless and why they are portrayed as just garbage on our streets as this is way the media sees them this will make most people believe the media and look down on these young teenagers who may not have families or jobs to support them. My methodologies of interviews, literary review, statistical analysis and Personal reflections helped me to achieve a greater understanding of youth homelessness in many ways.

I feel that through this process I have successfully and properly tested each type of different homeless groups, however I feel that if I was able to find larger sample sizes for my surveys, and been able to spend more time in

participant observation of youth homelessness I could have completed a more thorough 'road test'.

I feel that I have been very successful in becoming more socially and culturally literate through my research, as well as having a greater understanding of youth homelessness.

References

ABC News (August 2004) \$2.2million to target youth homelessness

http://mybiz.optus.com.au/regional_news/176142/illawarra/2-2m-to-target-youth-homelessness.html

[Accessed 6th April 2010]

This was a very useful website as it showed us that the government is helping out by funding shelters.

Arnold, A (March 2009). Shelter Needed for Kiama's Homeless

www.illawarraMercury.com.au/abs

[Accessed 22nd March, 2010]

This article was a really interesting and helpful article as it made me aware of Kiama's lack of accommodation or specific support services for the homeless.

Healey, J (volume 159) The Homeless

(Pg 4-5)

This book was full of useful information. It helped me to find the definition of what homelessness really is and some of the many causes of youth homelessness as well as homeless families and women.

<http://crazybrave.net/category/today-in-teh-news>

[Accessed July, 2010] ;

This website is where I got my title page picture from. Not just that but this website had pictures that were very sad and made me feel like I was lucky that I have a home and a supporting family.