



Nowhere else to go”

Young people’s views on homelessness



Hi, I’m Leanne McLean

I’m Tasmania’s Commissioner for Children and Young People. I recently talked with young people about their experience of Tasmania’s youth justice system. This resource shares their experiences and views on homelessness, and why it is important to have a safe place to call home.



What do the numbers say?

In 2023, children and young people aged 8 to 17 arrived alone at ‘Specialist Homelessness Services’ more than 1700 times. These services exist to help Tasmanians experiencing homelessness or in need of housing.

On an average day in Tasmania, at least 2 children or young people make a request for help from homelessness services but can’t be assisted.



What do the rights say?

Housing is a human right. All children have the right to live a full and happy life for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Governments need to help parents to make sure children have this right. Children must only be detained as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate amount of time.

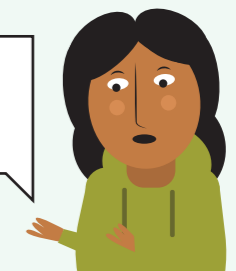


What did young people say?



A lot of children and young people like me who end up in the youth justice system have also experienced homelessness.

I need a safe and stable place to call home when I leave detention.



I should be supported to stay with my family, and my family should be supported so that they can care for me.

If I can’t live with my family, I should be supported to live outside of my family home.

