



NYCH FACT SHEET:

HOMELESSNESS IS MORE THAN HOUSELESSNESS

Homelessness does not just mean sleeping rough on the streets. There are three different types of homelessness that are used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics¹ and these are considered the standard cultural definition of homelessness in Australia.

Primary homelessness includes all people without a 'roof over their head'. This means people who are living on the streets, sleeping in parks, squatting in derelict buildings or using cars or trains as temporary shelter.

Secondary homelessness includes people who frequently move from one type of shelter to another. This includes people living in homeless services, hostels, people staying with other households who have no home of their own and people staying in boarding houses for 12 weeks or less.

Tertiary homelessness refers to people who live in boarding houses on a medium to long term basis (more than 13 weeks), who live in accommodation that does not have 'self-contained facilities' for example they do not have their bathroom or kitchen and who don't have the security provided by a lease. They are homeless because their accommodation does not have the characteristics identified in the minimum community standard for housing.



Figure 1: Postcard YHM day 2009

¹ Chamberlain and MacKenzie 2008 Counting the Homeless Report 2006, ABS