**Homelessness**

**Introduction:**

Homelessness is when people do not have housing and are instead living on the streets of cities and towns. Homeless people have existed in almost every single society throughout history and is an almost unavoidable issue. However, there different societies have had various methods of dealing with this issue and have had differing amounts of homeless people. There are many factors causing people to become homeless. These factors include: unemployment, poverty, mental illness, drug abuse, child neglect domestic violence, housing shortage and increasing cost of living. This report will investigate the causes, demographics, and effects of homelessness.

**Demographics:**

The homeless population in Australia does not exactly fit the demographics of the larger population. Of the roughly eight thousand homeless people in Australia, two thirds are male, one third are female. One fifth of the homeless people are Aboriginal Around half have mental health problems. A third have alcohol or drug addictions. People who have been homeless for more than four years only account for 13% of the total homeless population. In this smaller group the mental health issues rate increases to 80%.

**Effects:**

The rate of homelessness has a profound effect on communities. A high rate of homelessness makes streets less safe for everyone. This is because many homeless people are mentally unstable and prone to committing crimes such as theft, assault, drug abuse