

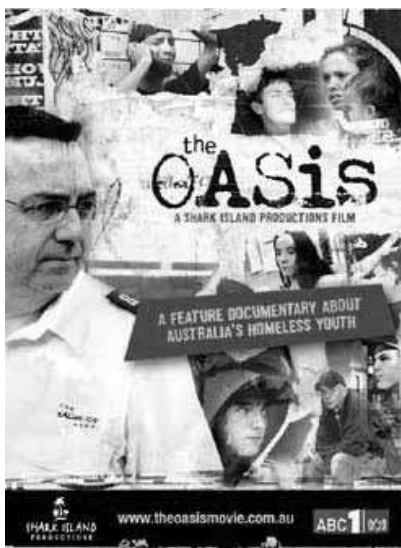
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The situation in Australia:

In Australia, homelessness is broadly defined as being without shelter in an improvised dwelling, in any form of temporary shelter or a temporary stay with a friend or acquaintance and residence in single rooms in boarding houses without facilities or security of tenure.

In the ABS Census 2001, there were 100,000 homeless people, approximately one third (36,000) were young people, aged from 12 to 21 years. There were another 9,941 children under the age of 12.

The Federal Government will build on its \$150 million election commitment to construct new homes for Australians in crisis accommodation by developing a White Paper on how Australia can systematically reduce homelessness over the next decade. The Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, has the responsibility for the consultation process and completing the White Paper that will provide a plan of action.



Recently, *the OASIS* feature documentary about Australia's homeless youth, was aired on ABC television. This film looks at the daily events for homeless youths, the achievements and struggles. OASIS is a shelter for homeless young people in Sydney which is run by the Salvation Army.

The *Come In* Youth Resource Centre (now known as St Francis Social Services) is located at St Francis of Assisi Church Paddington (NSW). This organisation has emanated from a Catholic and Franciscan history.

The Centre works in the areas of homelessness, HIV and AIDS, poverty and emotional difficulties. Assistance is offered to young people for education, employment and training.

Sarah Menassa

Promoter of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

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With a reputation of good practice, early intervention and clinical excellence, the Centre staff and the services they offer are highly regarded in the NSW Community.



What can you do?

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible” (St. Francis).

Read *Australia's Homeless Youth: A Report of the National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Homelessness*

http://www.abc.net.au/tv/oasis/pdfs/Homeless_report.pdf

Watch *the OASIS*. Available from ABC shops or online

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/oasis/>

Where are the children? (Marie Keown)

Where are the children?
Where did they go?
O silent land barren bereft
Where are the young ones?
Sturdy firm limb to heave the plough,
To echo happy laughter through the trees?
Dull my eyes maundering dreams of past delights
O how I writhe with moans for a generation never born
To uncton eyes and hands to clasp
As body stills and spirit leaps to God
Home in safekeeping will we find them there?
Sweet innocent playing with Angels singing! Praising!
Dancing! Enveloped in love
The land darkens and a deep mist prevails
The few remain to stand upon the shore.
Seeking.

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