

WHY THE WOMENS CAR SLEEPOUT?

According to the latest ABS Census figures 100,000 people are homeless every night in Australia. Among the homeless population are many women with children and older women aged 55 years and over. The majority of women experience homelessness due to domestic and family violence. Many of these women sleep in their cars or the cars of friends, alone or with their children. Their ages range from 17-70yrs with some being younger and some older. All without a safe home for the night/s.

- Women's homelessness is mainly due to family violence where women leave their homes with their children in order to stay safe.
- Family violence continues to be inflicted onto women as they age and their homes become empty nests.
- Many women will have raised children and contributed to the care of their grandchildren and or extended family members.....usually unpaid, undervalued and unrecognised
- Their homelessness will often leave them isolated and unsupported....the high price of their personal safety.
- Women usually don't have access to money to buy their homes.
- Women will have earned less than their male counterparts
- Women will have less superannuation than their male counterparts
- Women will experience deteriorating physical and mental health conditions due to their traumas including their experience of homelessness

We want to make this womens car sleepout a community event and highlight our concern for these women by reflecting to the public the experience many women have on a nightly basis.... in this cold weather.

We have received widespread support for this event that continues to strengthen our resolve to not let this issue go unchallenged. We also recognise that it takes a whole of community response to address these issues. We are asking for help from:

- All levels of government to continue with their commitment to people experiencing homelessness
- Property developers to partner with our Housing Associations to continue to develop affordable housing without always receiving government funding
- Real estate agents to partner with support agencies who can assist women to sustain their housing and fulfil their obligations
- Property owners with untenanted properties to partner with support agencies to ensure women sustain their housing and fulfil their obligations

EVERY WOMAN NEEDS A SAFE HOME EVERY NIGHT