

"THEY CAN'T GO BACK HOME" Young people & homelessness in

MPARNTWE
~~Alice Springs~~

A PROJECT BY NT SHELTER, THE OFFICE
OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER NT
& THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MPARNTWE

READ THE
FULL REPORT



NT FACTS:

ON A GIVEN NIGHT, OVER **3,200**
YOUNG TERRITORIANS AGED 12-24
ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

46% OF ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE
UNDER 24 YEARS OLD.

THE RATE OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING
HOMELESS IS **12X** MORE THAN THE
REST OF AUSTRALIA



**ALMOST ALL HOMELESS YOUNG
PEOPLE IN THE NT ARE STAYING IN
HOUSES THAT ARE OVERCROWDED**



Elijah, 21.

“You can have 20 people in a house, coming in from out bush. Everyone trying to stay in one house, it's really a struggle. It counts as homelessness. To be in that position, it's stressful, it's hard. To even sleep, you need your own space, your own house, and be more free. You need more support, you need help, help with the housing from Government.”



The artwork in this report was provided by the young people of Tangentyere Council after being asked: "What does home mean to you"

“ COME DOWN AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF. MAYBE SLEEP A NIGHT WHERE THEY’RE SLEEPING. EXPERIENCE WHAT THEY EXPERIENCE EVERY SINGLE DAY. ”

CHLOE, 18 *

The **Children’s Commissioner** is a person who makes sure kids in the NT are treated fairly and have the things they need to grow up safe and well.

NT Shelter is the peak body for housing and homelessness in the NT. That means they want all the people in the NT to be able to live somewhere safely that they can afford.

On this project we **worked together** with the young people of Mparntwe to ask them what their ideas and feelings were about housing & homelessness in their town.

“ BY NOT HAVING SOMEWHERE TO STAY SAFE, YOUNG PEOPLE WON’T GET THE FULL ACCESS TO EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND IT IS EASIER FOR THEM TO EXPERIENCE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ”

ARIA, 13

WHAT DID WE DO?

We heard from over 140 young people in Mparntwe - in schools, drop in centres, flexible education, at organisations they work with and in youth detention.

82% thought young people in Mparntwe are more at risk of homelessness than young people elsewhere.

They think it's worse because there's more violence, drugs and poverty here. Young people told us that there just aren't enough houses that people can afford.

“ A lot of these kids have seen violence, have seen people shoot up, have seen drugs, have seen alcohol. ”

Kaia, 17

YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US HOMELESSNESS MAKES LOTS OF THINGS WORSE:

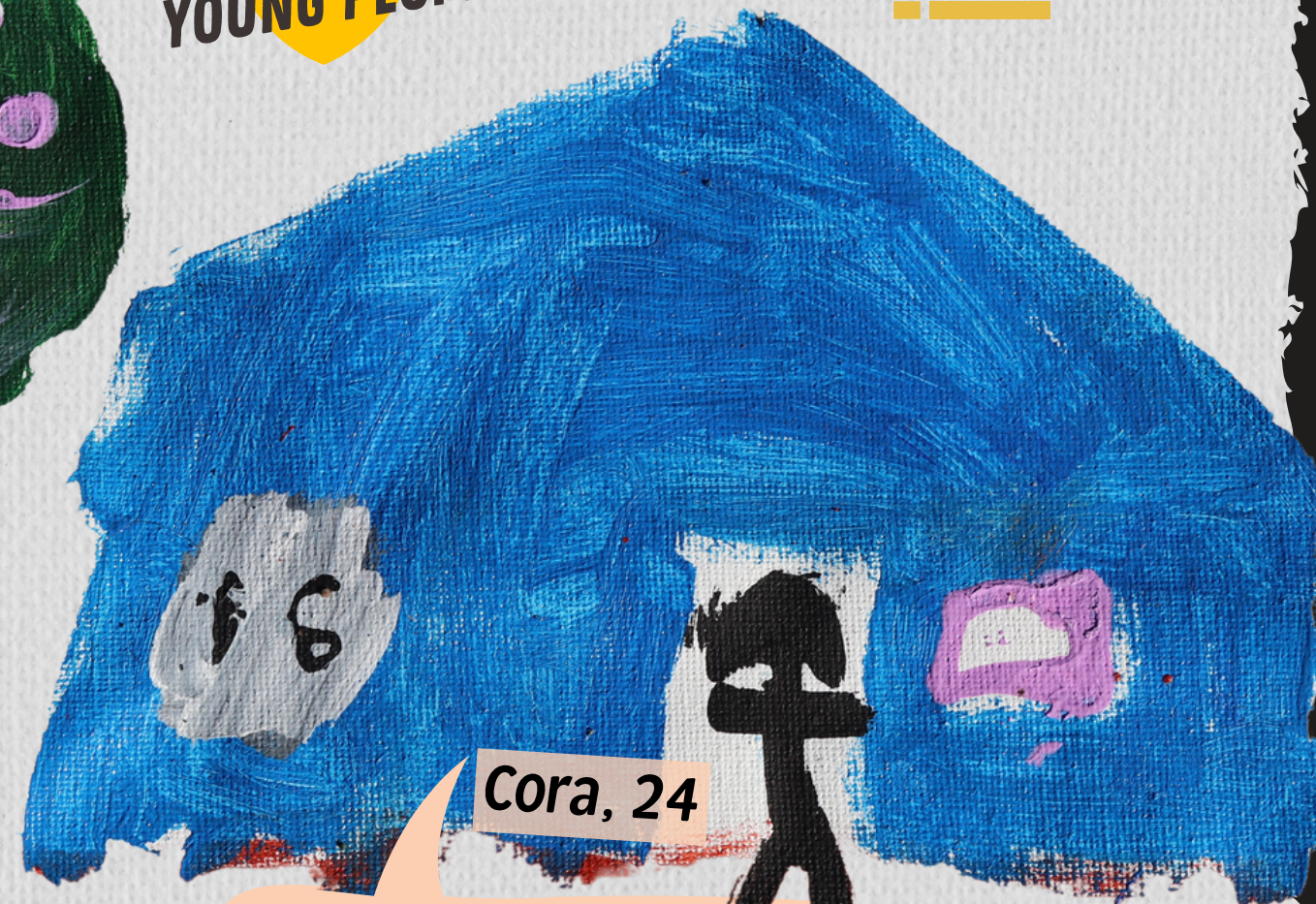


“ I RECKON THERE’S A BIG MENTAL TOLL, CAUSE NOT KNOWING WHERE YOU’RE GOING TO SLEEP, THAT’S LIKE STRESSFUL. WE’RE KIDS! I THINK THE FACT THAT WE’RE LITERAL CHILDREN BEING PUT OUT LIKE TO I GUESS...SURVIVE WITHOUT ANY HELP, THAT’S HARD AS IT IS! ”

SCOUT, 17

WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE WANT?

- ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
- AFFORDABLE & IMPROVED HOUSING
- SAFE SPACES AND PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
- HELP WITH POVERTY
- FAMILY SUPPORTS & PROGRAMS
- SERVICES TO COMMUNICATE BETTER



Cora, 24

“ I reckon we need accommodation, nurse in one building. I feel like we need a youth centre with accommodation all in one, all services in one. That would be a good way to stop the homelessness, to re-engage kids in school, in activities, to get them check-ups, you could have like a nurse, a counsellor, all services in one. ”

*All names have been changed to protect young people's identity

THANK YOU

to the young people of Mparntwe and the places & services who work with them for sharing your time, voice, experiences, ideas, art and guidance along every stage of this project.

Your stories are powerful, deserve to be heard, and will make change for young people in Mparntwe.

WHAT'S NEXT?

NOW IT'S OUR JOB TO TELL OTHER PEOPLE WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US. WE WILL WORK WITH GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. WE KNOW THAT BY FOCUSING ON HOUSING, WE CAN HELP TO FIX LOTS OF OTHER PROBLEMS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS ARE HAVING IN MPARNTWE!

“ A lot of these kids need help. We gotta stop letting them struggle because they're gonna get worse. And everyone is gonna start complaining to the police, knowing full well that we coulda done something earlier. Housing and homelessness is a way to do that. ”

Kaia, 17

CONTACT US



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