



Parity

A Call for Contributions – November 2023

“The Future of Youth Foyers”

Deadline: COB Friday, 10 November 2023.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. Submissions to be sent to: parity@chp.org.au

This edition of *Parity* is sponsored by the Foyer Foundation.



Introduction and Context

Youth homelessness remains a constant within the wider discourse of homelessness and the response to homelessness. While the causes and consequences of youth homelessness have changed and evolved over time due a range of social, economic, and cultural factors, youth homelessness remains a core issue for policy and program development.

The response to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness has changed and evolved markedly since it emerged as an important social and public policy issue in the late 1970's, and in particular, the early 1980's. The “moral panic” that accompanied the response to youth homelessness has seen many iterations and taken many trajectories.

Early crisis accommodation responses to youth homelessness sought to provide temporary and transitional respite on a notional pathway towards independence. Youth refuges and crisis accommodation still remain a central element of the service response to youth homelessness. The focus on early intervention and prevention that developed and has persisted since the 1990's sought to address some of the issues confronting young people at risk of homelessness and thus avoid it happening in the first place.

Today's emphasis on tailored and holistic approaches, marks a change that recognises that while youth homelessness may be episodic for some, an effective response also requires addressing many of the sources of structural disadvantage, particularly in regard to education and employment opportunities. The nexus between social, and in particular, educational disadvantage and pathways to youth and even long-term homelessness, has been recognised and



acknowledged in research studies as has the close connection between youth unemployment and youth homelessness.

Foyer programs and projects are based largely on overseas models, particularly those from Europe and the United Kingdom, have now been established for some time. They have developed and grown here in Australia with the core aim of providing a holistic approach to youth homelessness that conjoins accommodation with life-skills, education and employment training to give young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness a real chance to transition towards independence and social inclusion.

While no claim is made that Foyers are *the only* effective response to youth homelessness, they have become increasingly important for particular cohorts have provided many with a pathway out of homelessness and towards social inclusion. Foyers have thus become an increasingly important part of the suite of policies and programs aimed at tackling youth homelessness in Australia.

A framework for discussion

Chapter 1: Learning from Lived Experience

The aim of this chapter is to give young people who are, or who have undertaken Youth Foyer programs the opportunity to have their say about all aspects of the Youth Foyer programs and their experience of them.

Some of the issues that could be covered include:

- Accessing the Foyer – For example: How have young people found out about Youth Foyers and what were their expectations before entering the program? How did they find the experience of getting access to a Youth Foyer? What could have improved their orientation to the programs?
- Pre-Foyer readiness – For example: How are young people wanting to enter a Youth Foyer prepared and made ready for the program? How are young people selected for Youth Foyers? How are Young People supported with any problems and difficulties they might experience?
- ‘The Deal/Offer’ – For example, how the agreement works, why it is important and link to the outcomes achieved through the program? What are some of the different perspectives of the young people/Youth Coach/and Foyer Managers?
- The Transition – What are some examples of the process of transition through and out of Youth Foyers? How are difficulties and obstacles overcome?



Chapter 2: The Rationale and Principles Underpinning Youth Foyers: Advantaged Thinking

- What is the historical background to the development and growth of the “Foyers” movement; what are its origins and its point of departure from other program responses to youth homelessness?
- What are the underpinning principles and values that are the foundations of the work of Youth Foyers? Could Advantaged Thinking be applied to other service models in the youth homelessness space?
- What is the evidence of the success of Foyers and “foyer-like” models? What do any evaluations and other research have to say?

Chapter 3: The Foyer Model: Beyond Housing

The aim of this chapter is to distinguish the Foyer model as a holistic response to youth homelessness, which prioritises learning, employment and social development alongside the need for accommodation.

- Discuss the wrap-around services on offer through the Foyer model, providing real-life examples of their impact on young people and outcomes.
- What role does education play in the model? What partnerships, programs and initiatives currently exist and is there scope for development as the movement expands?
- Are there any unique challenges in connecting young people with education or employment opportunities? What solutions have been identified so far and how responsive are service providers to the ever changing economic and social conditions?

Chapter 4: Youth Foyers and the Response to Youth Homelessness

Let’s begin with “re-thinking” the ‘Problem’ of youth homelessness and reimagining our response to it by addressing the systems that create it and environment and the social context that sustain and enable it.

- Where do Foyers programs and projects sit in relation to other responses to youth homelessness? For example, where do Foyers sit in relation to crisis responses, youth refuges and shelters and early intervention and prevention programs? Are Foyers and programs and projects best understood as early intervention and homelessness prevention programs?
- Similarly, how do Foyers relate to mainstream supported accommodation, education and employment programs aimed and assisting and supporting disadvantaged young people?



- Where do Foyers sit in relation to current (and developing) national, state and territory homelessness policies?
- What is the place of Foyers in the current service system?
- Similarly, what are the gaps in the existing services landscape that Youth Foyers might help to fill?
- How can Youth Foyers integrate and work with other components of the service response to youth homelessness?
- Are Foyers relevant and applicable to all young people experiencing homelessness or are they only appropriate for specific cohorts?
- Who do Foyers work best for?
- Who are they targeted at?
- How strong is the demand for Foyers?
- Is there an unmet demand for Youth Foyers?
- What are the expectations of young people who join Foyers?
- Are there young people “missing out” on the Foyer movement, either through a lack of capacity or ineligibility?

Chapter 5: The Work of Youth Foyers - An Evidence-Based Approach

The aim of this chapter is to give Youth Foyers practitioners the opportunity to outline and discuss all aspects of their work.

- For example, Youth Foyers as a holistic response to youth homelessness incorporating wrap-around services.
- What role do Youth Foyers play in terms of early intervention and or transition?
- How do Youth Foyers innovate and adapt to change the landscape by employing different models like Education First?
- What are some examples of the evidence base for the success of the work of Youth Foyers?
- The Outcomes Framework: what are some examples of the growing evidence base for the success and effectiveness of Youth Foyers?
- Indeed, can a case be made for more Youth Foyers?



Chapter 6: Growing Youth Foyers - Innovation and Investment Models

The aim of this chapter is to discuss how the Youth Foyer model can be grown and, in particular, how it can be resourced and funded.

- What are some of the funding and investment models that might assist to garner the resources required for further growth and expansion?
- Can a case be made for Youth Foyers in Regional areas as well as dedicated First Nation/Aboriginal Youth Foyers?

Chapter 7: The Future of Foyers

The aim of this chapter is to provide all those working in or with Youth Foyers to discuss the future options for the Youth Foyer movement and to ask where will it be in 10, 20, 50 years' time and beyond?

Opinion Pages

The Opinion Pages (op-eds) are a very popular section of each edition of *Parity*. (700 words max)

The intended purpose of the Opinion Pages is advocacy. Leaders are given the opportunity to articulate their vision and their goals for the future and respond to the fundamental question: *How can we solve youth homelessness?*

Key information

Deadline: The deadline for contributions: COB Friday, 10 November 2023. Should additional time be required, please contact the Parity Editor.

Submissions format: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments via email to parity@chp.org.au.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in Parity. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

Artwork: Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.



Embedded media: Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

Content: By providing your contribution, you confirm and agree that (except where you have referenced or cited any other's work) the contribution is your original work and has not been copied from any other source.

Use: If your contribution is accepted, it will be published by or on CHP's behalf in an edition of the *Parity* magazine. *Parity* is available in hard copy and online.

Assistance and questions: Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* editor is available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. The earlier drafts are received for feedback, the better.

Contact: The *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, can be contacted on:

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p/ 0466 619 582

References

All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies.

In-text citations

CHP uses numbered-citation for all in-text citations.

- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered (1) in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered (2), and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.



- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If you use a reference consecutively assign the consecutive number and use Ibid.
- If the same reference elsewhere in your article, assign the consecutive number and use op. cit. For example, Seung S 2012, op cit, p. 34.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other.

For example:

International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. (4) (5)

Parity referencing style

All references used in *Parity* articles should be listed using the following guidelines:

Books

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page number(s).

For example:

1. Seung S 2012, *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, p.90.

Journal Articles

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

For example:

Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.



Newspaper articles

With identified author:

Authors Surname Initial Year of publication, 'Title of article', *Name of publication*, Date and year of publication, Page number(s) or <URL> if applicable.

For example:

Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

With no author:

Use 'Unknown'

For example:

Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

Webpage/document within a website or blog post

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website*, Year of Publication (if known) <URL>

For example:

Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <<http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>>

Audio podcast

Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

For example:

Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', Stuff Mom Never Told You, 14 March 2018 <<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html>>

Online video/film or documentary

Title Date of recording, Format, Publisher.

For example:

Indigenous homelessness 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

Personal communication

Personal communication may include (but are not limited to) email, fax, interview, conversations, lectures, speeches, telephone conversations and letters. Usually personal communications do not appear, as the information is not retrievable. However, due to the numbered citations used in *Parity*, we ask that they be included as follows:



Author's surname First name, Method of communication, Date and year of Communication

For example:

Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

Citing the same reference more than once

When a reference is cited a number of times, use op cit. after the year has been given. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the new page number as well.

For example:

Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 op cit. pp. 230-231.

Citing the same reference consecutively

Use Ibid. when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:

1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', *Journal of Adolescence*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.
2. Ibid. pp.32-33.

Multiple Authors

For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:

Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, The management of a student research project, Gower, Aldershot, England.