|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Press releaseFor immediate releaseJune 12, 2015 | Michelle HutchisonHead of PR & Money Expertfinder.com.au+61403 192 994+61 2 9299 7602Michelle@finder.com.au |

**Homelessness crisis close to home with Aussie rates among highest in the world**

|  |
| --- |
| * Australia found to have 4th highest homeless population out of 31 countries
* Property affordability has greatest correlation with homelessness
* Northern Territory has highest incidence of homelessness per state
 |

**June 12, 2015, SYDNEY** – Life on the streets is a frightening reality for 105,237 Australians, with Australia found to have the fourth highest percentage of homeless people as a proportion of total population, according to research by one of Australia’s biggest comparison websites [finder.com.au](http://www.finder.com.au/)[[1]](#footnote-1).

An analysis of homelessness rates in 31 countries, from data sources that included UNICEF, The World Bank and The Human development Index 2014, revealed that, at 0.45 percent, Australia has a higher percentage of homeless population than many developed countries including the United Kingdom, United States, France, Denmark and Hong Kong.

Only Germany, New Zealand and Canada were found to have a higher percentage of homeless population than Australia. In Germany, 1.08 percent of the population is estimated to be homeless, followed by 0.73 percent of the New Zealand population, and 0.66 percent of the Canadian population.

The [finder.com.au](http://www.finder.com.au/) research also found that Australia’s property affordability has the greatest correlation with homelessness, with Australia ranked the seventh most expensive country in terms of rental prices (indexed), and Australia’s Consumer Price index (CPI) placing it as the fourth most expensive country to live in out of the 31 countries.

Furthermore, a state by state analysis[[2]](#footnote-2) across Australia revealed that homelessness is rampant throughout the country, with the Northern Territory found to have the highest incidence of homelessness by state. In fact, NT has 12-times more homeless people than the national average, with a staggering 6.53 percent of its population. It’s followed by the Australian Capital Territory (0.47 percent). Tasmania was the state with the lowest incidence of homelessness (0.31 percent).

**State by state**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **% of homeless as proportion of state’s population** | **Number of homeless** |  |
| **Northern Territory** | 6.53% | 15,479 |  |
| **Australian Capital Territory** | 0.47% | 1,786 |  |
| **Queensland** | 0.43% | 19,831 |  |
| **Victoria** | 0.40% | 22,773 |  |
| **Western Australia** | 0.39% | 9,595 |  |
| **New South Wales** | 0.38% | 28,191 |  |
| **Tasmania** | 0.31% | 1,579 |  |

Source: [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au/), Homelessness Australia, ranked by highest proportion

 **State by state analysis:**

* **Victoria:** VIC held the highest proportion of homeless people in the 19 to 44 year-old age bracket (51%)
* **New South Wales:** More homeless people in NSW than other states (28,191), and the highest proportion of over 45 year-olds homeless than any other state (30%), and retirement age (7%)
* **Tasmania:** The lowest incidence of homelessness by state (0.31% of population)
* **Western Australia:** The highest proportion of people where financial difficulty is the major reason for homelessness (28%)
* **Northern Territory:** The highest incidence of homelessness by state (6.53% of its population) and the highest rate of cause of homelessness associated with domestic violence and relationship issues (44%)
* **South Australia:** The top reason for homelessness is accommodation issues (42%)
* **ACT:** Second-highest incidence of homelessness by state (0.47% of population)

Fred Schebesta, co-founder and director of [finder.com.au](http://www.finder.com.au/), said these alarming statistics contributed to his decision to sign up for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout on Thursday June 18, 2015, to tackle homelessness in Australia.

“A couple of years ago, the [finder.com.au](http://www.finder.com.au/) team and I slept out on George Street for four days in anticipation of the iPhone 5 launch. This gave me a personal taste of what it’s really like for the 105,000 Aussies, including 28,000 kids, who are homeless right now: rough, cold, dangerous, noisy and intense,” said Mr Schebesta. “But I’ll gladly do it again to raise money for those in need of somewhere warm and safe to sleep.

“Interestingly, both property affordability and homelessness in Australia are contentious issues for many Australians. While property prices may be out of our control, homelessness is one of the causes we can collectively make a difference to. It’s a confronting reality but that just reiterates the need to stand up and do something about homelessness in Australia. I hope you, too, will get behind the cause and help make a real difference to the lives of these people.”

[finder.com.au](http://www.finder.com.au/) will be raising funds for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout at a charity business networking event in Sydney on Tuesday June 16, 2015. Mr Fred Schebesta will present ‘How to growth hack your business to success’ and will auction off his digital marketing expertise to businesses in attendance. [Find out more and buy your ticket](https://www.giggedin.com/gigs/best-10-growth-hacking-secrets-revealed-fred-schebesta-co-founder-and-director-at-findercomau) or [donate to the cause](https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/ceos/nsw-ceos/fred-schebesta-finder-com-au/).

###

**For further information:**

**Michelle Hutchison Bessie Hassan**

Head of PR & Money Expert PR Manager

finder.com.au finder.com.au

+61403 192 994 +61402 567 568

#### +61 2 9299 7602 + 2 9299 7602

Michelle@finder.com.au Bessie@finder.com.au

**About finder.com.au:**

[*finder.com.au*](http://www.finder.com.au/) *is one of Australia’s biggest comparison websites and has helped over 4.8 million Australians find better credit cards, home loans, life insurance, shopping deals and more since 2006. finder.com.au compares 250 credit and debit cards from 31 providers, over 300 home loan products, and information from 13 life insurance providers as well as online shopping promo codes, mobile phone plans, travel insurance and more. One Australian every five minutes is using* [*finder.com.au*](http://www.finder.com.au) *or one of its network sites* [*creditcardfinder.com.au*](http://www.creditcardfinder.com.au/) *and* [*lifeinsurancefinder.com.au*](http://www.lifeinsurancefinder.com.au/) *to find better (Source: Google Analytics).*

**Disclaimer**:

*Hive Empire Pty Ltd (trading as finder.com.au, ABN: 18 118 785 121) provides factual information, general advice and services on financial products as a Corporate Authorised Representative (432664) of Advice Evolution Pty Ltd AFSL 342880. Please refer to our* [*FSG*](http://www.finder.com.au/resources/Finder-Financial-Services-Guide.pdf) *and Credit Licence ACL 385509. We are also a Corporate Authorised Representative of Countrywide Tolstrup Financial Services Group Pty Ltd. ABN 51 586 953 292 AFSL 244436 for the provision of online travel insurance. We are not owned by any Bank or Insurer and we are not a product issuer or a credit provider. Although we cover a wide range of products, providers and services we don't cover every product, provider or service available in the market. We also don't recommend specific products, services or providers. If you decide to apply for a product or service through our website you will be dealing directly with the provider of that product or service and not with us. We recommend consumers understand the Product Disclosure Statements before deciding if a product is right for them (c) 2013.*

1. Experian Hitwise since 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Homelessness Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [↑](#footnote-ref-2)