

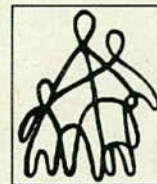
Council of Social Service of New South Wales

NCOSS

ACN 001 797 137

Tel (02) 9211 2599

66 Albion Street,
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Fax (02) 9281 1968



8 January 1997

Peter Hamilton
Unit I
50 Paterson St
Byron Bay 2481

*Put the 91
Master Card
MASTER
ORIGINAL*

Dear Mr Hamilton,

Lindy Monson is no longer working for NCOSS and your letter requesting information on homelessness in NSW has been passed on to me.

As you are no doubt aware, there is virtually no accurate data on homelessness available - a lot of the figures bandied around are estimates based on different factors and different timeframes (e.g. over a year or on a given night will give you totally different estimates).

There has been a census of SAAP services run by the Commonwealth which looks at two week periods and one off nights - these ceased in 1995 and only ever reflected the numbers of homeless people picked up by services. A more recent SAAP data collection is more comprehensive and the data from this will be available in February/March - DOCS should be able to help you with that data (02 716 2222 - ask for Gavin Smith). - again it will only count homeless people in services but may also include some turnaway figures.

According to the State review of SAAP in NSW in 1993 there were 4618 beds available in SAAP services - this is the most that could be accommodated at any one time but as you know, homelessness is not a constant and people move in and out of crisis. Rough estimates put the homeless population in Australia at 40,000 but if 10,000 of these are school students it seems likely to be an underestimation. (A census of homeless school students in May 1995 estimated that there were 2910 homeless school students in NSW in census week (10440 nationally) - most of these would not have been in SAAP services.) The NSW proportion is likely to be about one third.

If you would like to discuss this matter further (it is difficult to know what kind of figures you are interested in and most of them will be problematic) then please give me a ring at NCOSS on (02 9211 2599).

Yours sincerely

L. Frow

Linda Frow
Policy Officer

*P.S. Patrick McClure is moving to Mission Australia in the New Year.
However someone at St V de Paul would be able to assist you - the
number is 02 9560 8666.*

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L. Frow

Linda Frow
Policy Officer

FAX DOCUMENT FROM PETER HAMILTON

1/50 Paterson Street, Byron Bay, 2481 (066) 858 648 (F/T)

TO: Craig Wilson

FAX No: 224261 DATE: 28-1-97

Number of pages (including this sheet): 17

SUBJECT: Various

COMMENTS:

Herewith as discussed: -

1. Pan Com Media Release of 28-1-97
2. Council Report on SEPP-15
3. Pan Com Notice of Meeting & Nimbin Newsletter
4. Thesis title & abstract. The reference to the work I referred to is: Whyte, William H. (1956) "The Organisation Man", Penguin. My data appears to support his findings.
5. Flyer on Metcalf book in case you are not aware of this. This contains many personal case studies/dialogue of the relationship between personal satisfaction in the context of an "intentional community"/"extended family".
6. NCSS correspondence re homelessness data

Regards

Peter