

fact sheet 9

Can the police pick me up if I'm hanging out on the streets?

If you're under 18 and don't have a place to stay and are living or hanging out on the streets, the police can pick you up if they think that you're:

- ☞ in need of care and protection
- ☞ not under the supervision or control of a responsible adult
- ☞ living in or going to a public place heaps.

If you're picked up by the police they CANNOT hold you in police cells. They should either take you home or place you in the care of Community Services (the old DoCS). If you're placed in the care of Community Services you should speak to a lawyer as soon as possible so you know your legal rights.

If you need legal advice call:

**Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre**
1800 686 587

Legal Aid Hotline for under 18s
1800 101 810

Aboriginal Legal Service
(02) 9318 2122

I'M HOMELESS



This Factsheet was produced by Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre (WBAWLC) and is only meant as a guide to NSW law and cannot replace legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should speak to a lawyer for some legal advice. WBAWLC excludes liability for any loss suffered by any person which results from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this Factsheet.

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I'M HOMELESS

You're homeless when you:

- ☞ are living on the streets
- ☞ have run away from home
- ☞ have no regular place to stay.

Why do some people find themselves homeless?

There are lots of reasons why some people don't have a place to stay. Such as problems at home like violence, alcohol, substance abuse and/or for other reasons you may not feel safe living there anymore. Problems at home like:

- ☞ violence
- ☞ alcohol
- ☞ substance abuse
- ☞ other reasons that make you feel unsafe.

What to do if you have no place to stay

- ☞ Let your friends or other family members know that you don't feel safe at home anymore. They may let you stay with them for a while.
- ☞ Call the numbers below and they'll help you find a place to stay.

Homeless Persons Information Centre

The **Homeless Persons Information Centre** helps homeless people who are over 18 by providing:

- ☞ immediate advice and information
- ☞ referral to crisis accommodation
- ☞ referral to support services.

Youth Accommodation Association

If you want to speak to someone about getting **emergency accommodation** call the Youth Accommodation Association of NSW. The Youth Accommodation Association also provides a recorded list of hostel and refuge vacancies in NSW. This service is for 12-18 year olds who need a place to stay.

If you need accommodation information call:

Youth Accommodation Association

NSW – 1800 424 830

Sydney – 02 9318 1531

www.yaa.com.au

Homeless Persons Information Centre

It's open from 9:00am to 10:00pm, 7 days a week.

NSW – 1800 234 566

Sydney – (02) 9265 9087

If you're under 18 and homeless, you could ring **Community Services Helpline** for some help on **132 111**

If you're escaping domestic violence and need a place to stay you can call the **Domestic Violence Line** on **1800 656 463**

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