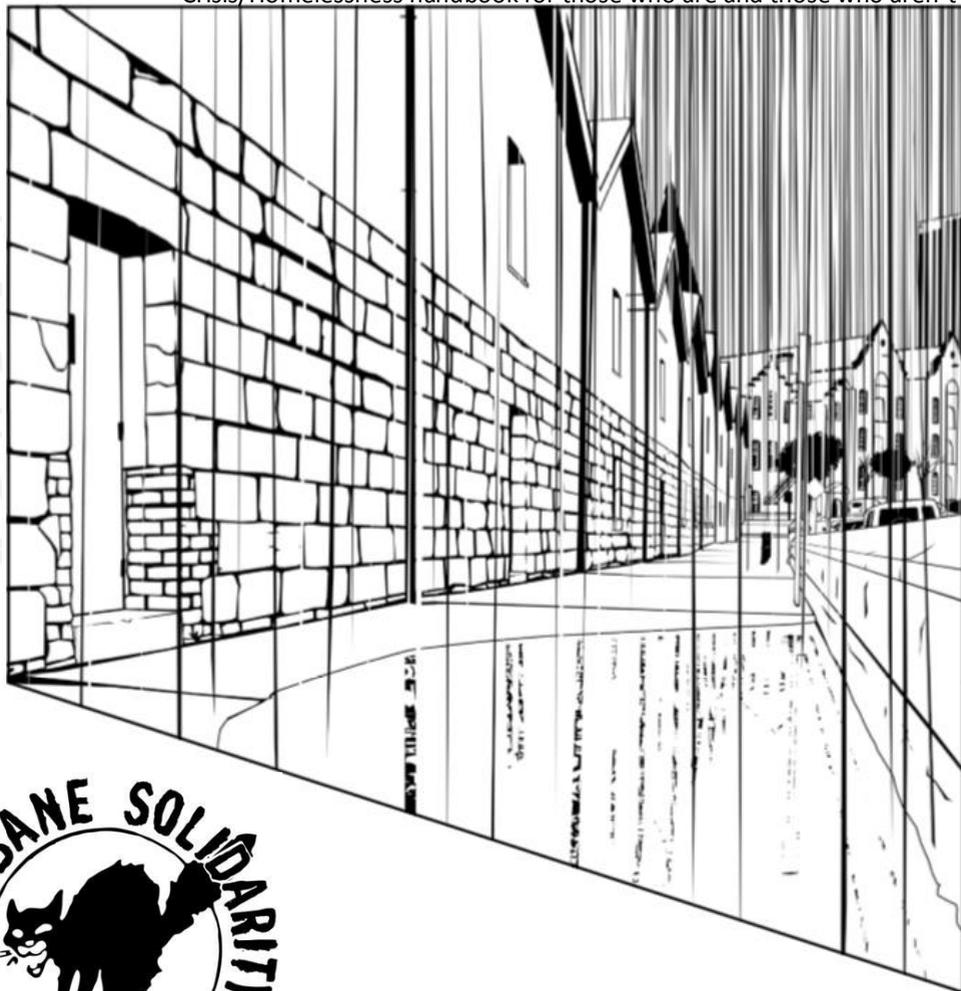


# Crisis!

## Ipswich—Brisbane

Crisis/Homelessness handbook for those who are and those who aren't



# Crisis: Ipswich-Brisbane

© v.4.6 Compiled 2017 by  
Brisbane Solidarity Network  
with the help of [unite].  
on Unceded Yuggera/Turrbal/Yerongpan Country..  
Resist// Revive//Decolonise.

Front cover courtesy of prole.info

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

If you have this book and aren't homeless, have a read and try to understand homelessness at a level beyond blame and individual fault. Although this is about practical help, the purpose of this book is also to widen the scope of thought and debate around homelessness and the issues which surround it.

If you see someone who might need a hand, you can do more than drop a coin or two, but you don't have to approach them like a saviour either. Be equal and human - ask them how they're doing - what their plan is for the week. If they're unsure about something, maybe you can use this to put them in the right direction (or give this to them).

If you see the value in this sort of work and activity, send an email to [bsn@riseup.net](mailto:bsn@riseup.net) or check out [brisbanesolidarity.net](http://brisbanesolidarity.net) where you can request more copies of this book, see updates, send a donation, see what else we do, what we're about and how you can help out if you're interested. Any help or suggestions about additions to this would be greatly appreciated. Lots of pain and trauma on this land - to all those struggling out there stay strong, keep your heads up and see yas on the street.



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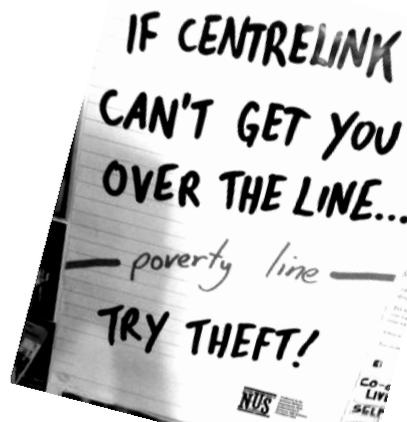
## Listen Social Worker!

## Support Workers Network

## Direct Action & Mutual Aid

2 “So long as the immense  
11 majority of the populations  
12 are dispossessed of property,  
14 of land, deprived of education  
19 and condemned to political  
23 and social nonbeing, so long  
24 as labour continues to be the  
26 slave of private property, the  
28 State and of capital, so long  
29 as human society continues  
30 to be divided into different  
43 classes as a result of the  
44 hereditary inequality of  
44 occupations, of wealth, of  
45 education, and of rights,  
46 there will always be a class-  
48 restricted government and  
48 the inevitable exploitation of  
49 the majorities by the  
50 minorities, with all the social  
51 dysfunction that this entails.  
55 The State is nothing  
56 but this domination and this  
60 exploitation, well regulated  
65 and systematised.”

- BAKUNIN



# CRISIS!: IPSWICH-BRISBANE

"The aim of this book is to provide some practical direction to those who are homeless or are at risk of falling into homelessness; to make hard to find information available for those who might want to help someone in crisis but don't know how, to spark discussion amongst support-workers across the industry - and; to demonstrate to people from all walks of life that homelessness isn't a natural or a minor issue"

**"This is a Magic Book!" — Vincent S, Crisis-accom tenant**

Since its first release in 2008 by Brisbane Solidarity Network more than 1000 copies of this booklet have been directly distributed freely to those in crisis (including those in prison) and a whole bunch to Service Providers (usually for donation) with the assistance of support workers and the unguarded photocopiers across the social-work industry. There's also been an unknown amount distributed via the internet in its PDF form. *Crisis* has become the default handbook at several crisis services across Ipswich and Brisbane, with many people in crisis or working in the support/care work sector sharing their experience and knowledge.

*Crisis!* Became the unacknowledged basis for many other guides including the State Sponsored: "*A Handy Guide for Women in Brisbane*". Another way the NGO-Industrial-Complex rides on the back of grassroots projects!

Lots of people talk about the individual reasons for homelessness—losing your home in a fire, losing your job and getting evicted, issues of substance abuse and mental illness. We talk about the systemic ones. Housing is treated as a commodity, it's very expensive, and there are not enough decent-paying jobs. The real issue is poverty—plenty of filthy-rich people have issues of substance abuse and mental illness, but they don't become homeless because they aren't poor.

*For Solidarity, Self-Organisation & Resistance*

— BSN Group, 2017



# INTRODUCTION

The road towards sustainable accommodation is not an easy one, and this listing recognises that for many the steps in here will be difficult if not impossible to achieve. Nonetheless, it is with hope that this book will help to decode the steps towards appropriate accommodation and provide some practical direction in the here and now.

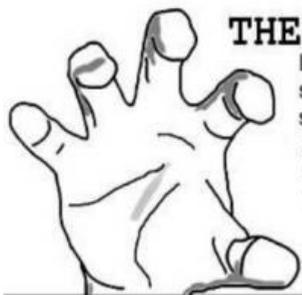
The concept of 'home' is at the heart of the term homelessness. 'Home' means different things to different people but ultimately it relates to a space or place which acts as a place of peace; a place in which a person is able to freely and comfortably explore and express their identity or sense of self.

Currently, the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that Queensland has the second highest rate of homelessness in Australia (after NT), with over 26,000 known Queenslanders in crisis accommodation, sleeping rough, squatting, couch surfing etc with many more on the brink of homelessness, uncounted or in other unstable forms of accommodation. Behind the image of the 'luckiest and most affordable state in Australia' lies a mass of people struggling to keep their heads above water.

There is a severe lack of affordable housing, support services and crisis accommodation in Queensland. Those that are available lack sufficient resources, resulting in an unsupportive and unsafe environment for those experiencing homelessness. Boarding houses are run unchecked according to the private landlord/slumlord's whim. In the years that BSN was actively trying to organise boarding house tenants across Brisbane we encountered slumlords pressuring women to exchange sexual favours when they couldn't afford rent, places filled with mould and health risks, slumlords stealing bond money, harassing tenants for having visitors over, evictions via stand-over tactics, evictions for less than \$90 rent arrears, overcrowding, exploitation of foreign students, privacy breaches where landlords would come in any time of day and even a level 3 disability service organisation skimming money off the top of peoples disability

support pensions to keep for themselves. Yes we need community solidarity to fight these abuses but we also need a push for these places to be taken out of private unaccountable hands and to be managed properly. Many crisis accommodation centres too are environments which breed drug abuse and violence, and a lack of resource allocation leads to a design of service which is disempowering and out of touch.

People are forced into homelessness for a multitude of reasons. We live in a world that imposes an anti-social, competitive, fiercely individualistic political system on top of a humanity which is inherently social and interdependent. It has to be stressed: Humanitarian aid is self-defeating if it is not coupled with an aim to alter the conditions which produce its need. This book is merely an attempt at a band-aid which allows people to once again function within the current structure.



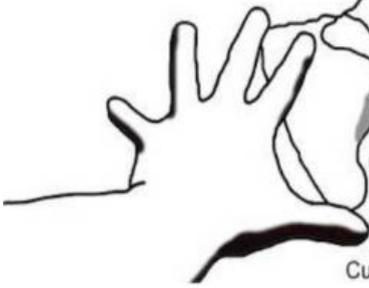
### THE PULL

Lack of informal support networks, no social safety net, violence, substance abuse, stigma, discrimination, reduced access to services, impaired decision making, lack of interpersonal skills, judgement, fines, police harassment, loss of community, sickness, lack of support services, inability to access services, TICA blacklisted, depression, loneliness, lack of identification, reduced access to education and health care, harassment, red tape..



### THE PUSH

Gentrification, sickness, entrenched effects of dispossession, dysfunction in the family, crisis, trauma, domestic violence mental health issues, impaired decision making, lack of support around prison release, abuse, disability, racism,



unaddressed deinstitutionalisation, generational poverty, discrimination, lack of affordable housing, lack of employment opportunities, substance abuse, job insecurity, lack of affordable healthcare, TICA blacklisted, Cut off centrelink, Injury, job loss..

On a more micro scale, many people in Queensland become and remain homeless due to a range of factors; impaired decision making, a lack of support or social safety net, transitioning out of the child protection, health or justice system, gentrification, the lack of affordable housing, rising cost pressures, the out of touch crime inducing methods of the methadone program...

At last census 7395 people aged 18 and over were homeless or vulnerably housed in Brisbane. 4324 people were homeless, couch-surfing or transient, with 168 sleeping rough or squatting. Australia has the most expensive housing of any country in the world – only the city/region of Hong Kong is more unaffordable. Housing is the largest expense for low-income households and more than 60% of renters face “housing stress”. The number of people without secure housing is growing: 105,000 people are homeless (5% sleeping rough) and 173,000 are on public housing waiting lists. Services aren’t keeping up with demand and more than half of the people who attempt to access homelessness services are being turned away.

**NO HOMES WITHOUT PEOPLE...NO PEOPLE WITHOUT HOMES**

**“The incentives for property speculators to hold prime locations empty is an affront to anyone locked out of housing. The findings prove we do not have a housing supply crisis, we are literally locked out”**

– Karl Fitzgerald, Prosper Australia’s Project Director.

Up to 18.9% of all investment properties in Australia lie empty. On January 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 Melbourne had 13,521 properties without a tenant; Sydney had 12,605 vacant homes; Brisbane had 9,202; Perth 8,236; Adelaide 3,534 and Darwin had 1,175 empty properties. On the 2011 Census night 1 in 10 dwellings across Australia were vacant. We are one of the only countries left that has negative gearing, which makes it cheaper for speculators to own properties than home owners.

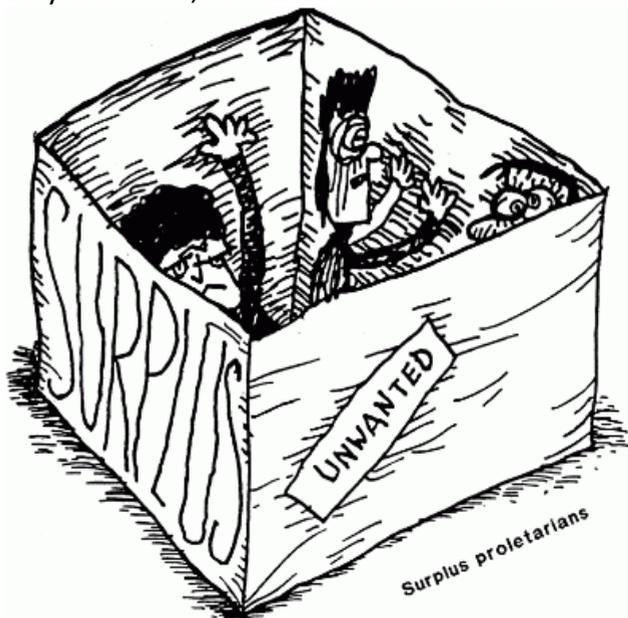
# HOUSING FIRST..

In the first issue of *Crisis* we put forward the huge benefits of the Housing First model, but now that it has been introduced across Australia we'll take a deeper look at it. The Housing First program argues that what it labels 'Chronic homelessness' is expensive for the state and that the way to solve homelessness and save money is to provide more homes, giving people a long-term stable environment with on-site support (saving money on emergency response/police call outs and minimising interaction with the court systems). Today's accepted practice however has been to provide short term crisis shelters and transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness, attempting only to meet the day-to-day and emergency needs of these individuals. For this reason Housing First is a welcome change. It counters a lot of rhetoric against giving people a house and it gives those doing it tough immediate access to sustainable shelter and support. But while this is a step forward, 'ending homelessness' cannot be reduced to focussing on the visibly 'chronic homeless' alone. The success of the Housing First model has always been articulated in terms of cost savings and effectiveness rather than in terms of underlying values, promising that behaviours which make businesses and the public feel uncomfortable can be made invisible through managing and controlling these populations in high density supportive housing.

**"..The model, viewing itself as the solution to ending homelessness, forsakes any commitment to social transformation and instead crystallises the apex of the social work/Non-profit industrial complex mentality – bending to funding requirements and political agendas aimed at cutting costs and reducing social services while at the same time utilising an increasingly weaker lexicon of 'social justice' sounding terms like 'human rights', 'sustainability', 'community' etc which appeases liberal sensibilities and looks great on paper but are ultimately void of meaning, direction or definition. Despite all the talk of community, most housing first projects fail to effectively integrate with the local community, instead tenants are being placed in a high density environment with increased contact with police and social services.."**

Whether this worldview was the one intended by the housing first model, it has become synonymous with a particular image of what homelessness is, which it sells to policy makers and broader sections of society - an image which reduces issues of homelessness and housing to a layer of 'chaotic people with high support need, unable to be housed elsewhere'. This image is dangerous when presented in isolation, which it increasingly is. Emphasising the characteristics of vulnerable individuals who represent a minority of homeless people downplays the scale of homelessness and the role of labour markets, welfare and limited access to affordable housing in homelessness causation. While it is designed to deal with the most difficult aspects of homelessness, we must not become complacent; we cannot see homelessness in isolation from a class based society which is geared towards meeting the needs of Capital rather than humanity.

Homelessness is not only about finding a place to put those who already are on the streets, but also about assuring the security of low income people who are one step from being homeless. It's about building community and struggling against gentrification, foreclosures and the cutting of affordable housing. While building supportive housing may be an answer for some of the currently homeless, it doesn't alter the broader systemic issues such as the widespread lack of affordable housing, health care, community-based support services, or living wage jobs. The majority of people who are struggling to survive, shifting between transient accommodation and private rentals, barely employed and unemployed, keeping their heads just above water do not access services and do not appear in statistics.



# THE JOB CLUB MERRY-GO-ROUND

The compliance focus of the Job Service Agency system is another piece of this puzzle. Unemployment in Australia is at its highest in 12 years. The Government's solution is an innovative billion-dollar scheme called Jobs Services Australia. In 2015 4Corners reported a 'system open to abuse where the unemployed have become a commodity, with "80% of claims having some sort of manipulation". In 2016 the *Unemployed Workers Union* reported:

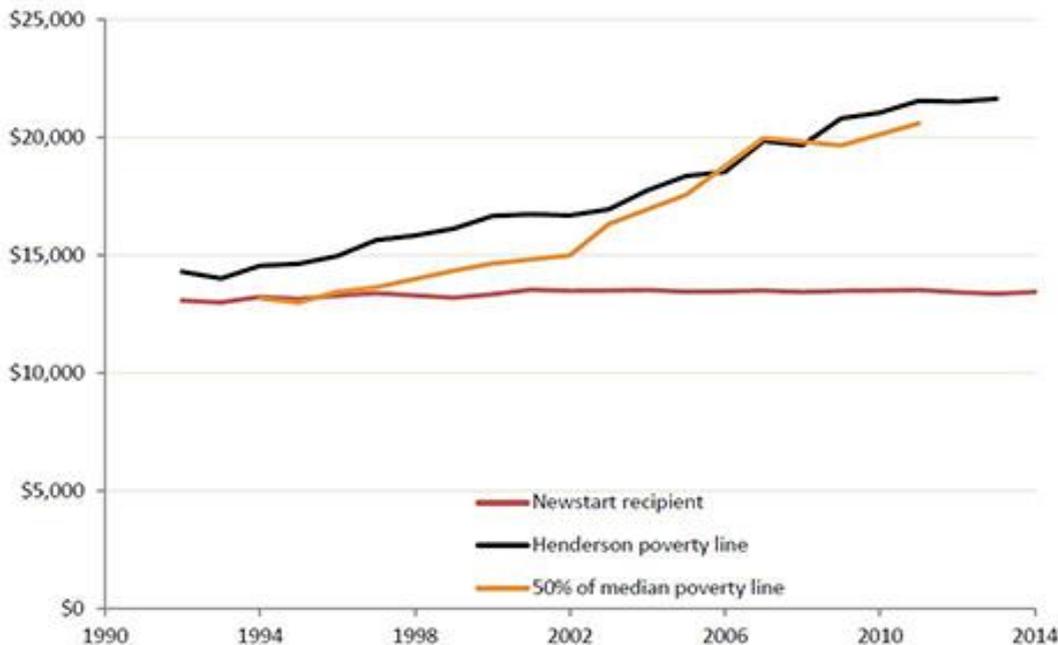
"The compliance focus of Jobactive system has caused untold misery on unemployed Australians and their families. Furthermore, as has become the norm within Australia's social security system, the Coalition government has gone out of its way to inflict particularly cruel and unusual punishments on Indigenous Australians.

Of the 261,529 financial penalties imposed on unemployed workers this year, 56 per cent were inflicted on Community Development Program (CDP) participants – an all-year-round Work for the Dole program targeted specially at Indigenous areas. Considering that there are 34,000 CDP participants – or approximately 4 per cent of the total number of people who attend job agencies – this is a shocking reminder of the Coalition's discriminative approach to First Nations people.

The government's punitive approach to the unemployed is not only hurting unemployed workers financially, it is also placing them in physical danger. As more unemployed workers than ever before are being forced into Work for the Dole programs under threat of penalties, the number of injuries occurring at government-approved Work for the Dole injuries has skyrocketed.

It is the worst time in post-war Australian history to be unemployed. Not only are unemployed workers forced into a punitive, dangerous and dysfunctional employment services industry in a no-jobs market, they are also forced to live on a payment that is just under \$400 below the poverty line per fortnight.

Real 2014 dollars



# DISPOSSESSION.

Like most things to gain an understanding we have to go back to the beginning of the problem. We can't talk about eliminating homelessness without talking about its roots: displacement and dispossession, racism and colonialism, assimilation and oppression. The reductionism of housing-as-home glosses over cultural, spiritual, and ideational meanings of 'home' as a secure place to be. Private property, housing as commodities and the real-estate market didn't appear out of nowhere; it was enforced through world-shattering colonial-violence and this colonial-violence continues through the systems of privilege that a large portion of society uphold and the government's ongoing commitment to plunder resources and break up Aboriginal communities. In looking to address homelessness in so-called Australia it's not enough to say that the struggles against homelessness and dispossession are united. This is Aboriginal Land; We have to find better ways of practicing what we preach and participating in struggles both against colonialism and

capitalism. Colonial-Capitalism means suburbs and slums, condos and ghettos. It means evictions and bonds, mouldy, infested apartments and high rent. It means repetitive, boring, dangerous work, unemployment and homelessness. It means isolation, imaginary togetherness and real conservative communities, prejudice, racism and political correctness. It means speculation and regulation, growth and stagnation, crisis and war. It means landlords and loan sharks, police and politicians, bureaucrats and bosses.



**THE FIRST LAND SALE**



**Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**

*Maslow's idea holds that generally people need to fulfil the lower need on the hierarchy before they are able to continue on to the next one.*

Maslow's idea is taught as the basis for a lot of NGO thinking. But here's the problem with Maslow's hierarchy. None of these needs — starting with basic survival on up — are possible without social connection and social-solidarity. The return to belongingness and community requires a fundamental transformation of our society.

*“The same things that make us want to live in a neighborhood are what make it attractive to developers. Capital doesn’t care if we feel at home somewhere. That feeling is a barrier to investment. It’s an uncompetitive use of land to have cheap housing where you could have luxury hotels. At a certain point, the image of the ‘neighborhood community’ becomes just a blurb on propaganda. Since capital can’t create real community, it creates imaginary ones. But being part of an imaginary community doesn’t make someone any less isolated. Real, authentic, traditional communities are a valuable commodity, but by being organised for sale they lose their reality and authenticity... Living in a neighbourhood targeted by developers is eerie. You can almost feel how the built-in assumption in the land prices is that we will leave the neighbourhood...”*



# PART I: THE NEED FOR FOOD



This section will be divided into the following:

- A) Food for thought
- B) Dumpster Diving
- C) Food Vans
- D) Emergency Relief/Food Pantries



*“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”*

— Dom Helder Camara, Brazilian Archbishop



People in Oz continue to throw out three million tons of food every year – the equivalent of 145 kilograms for each and every one of us. People are still wasting \$5-6 billion worth of food each year – enough to feed the entire continent for three weeks..

Although it’s well known that much of the planets food is wasted, it is only now that studies are showing these figures as percentages. Research out of the *Australian Institute* has revealed that the value of the food thrown out by Aussies each year is more than the amount spent on new technologies such as flat screen TVs. To put this into context the \$5.2 billion worth of food that Australians throw out each year is enough to meet the shortfall in the United Nations Emergency Relief fund.



# DUMPSTER DIVING

Supermarkets & food chains throw away massive amounts of edible food everyday. Grocery stores will throw away large quantities of produce upon getting a newer shipment. If a single part of a larger package gets damaged (eg: soft drink bottles) the whole package will be put in the dumpster. Food that reaches its expiration date will be put in the dumpster on the day. Packaging errors often results in a whole line of product being thrown out. Dumpster Diving is the act of liberating this perfectly good food from dumpsters and can be safe and clean if you're smart about it.



When you do find a good dumpster, you'll find you will usually score a large sum of one thing, eg; loaves upon loaves of bread, boxes of crackers and bagels, boxes upon boxes of tomatoes/onions, cans of beans etc – usually cleanly wrapped up in bags too! Because of this it's good to share what you find around or put the excess in your freezer to eat in the future. Your best bet is to start with large supermarkets work



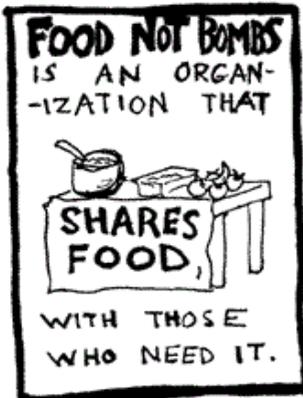
*Collected Fresh thrown out food*

your way down. From our experience the best catches are from medium sized food chain stores and bakeries, but don't rule out independent grocers or even distribution centres and factories if there are any nearby. Do all your scouting during the day, when you can easily identify dumpsters (as opposed to the recycling bins or the dreaded compactors/incinerators) and see what security is or isn't present. In daylight you will look less suspicious when you're nosing around, and you can also discover all the potential targets in one go

and save yourself a lot of wandering around in the dark. As for the quality of dumpsters, well you can only find that out by jumping in! If you're planning to expropriate food straight from the supermarket shelves remember, start small and build confidence. Self-serve checkouts are your friend! Don't be afraid to try dumpsters from hardware and second hand stores! Just beware of cameras, although usually they're only used retroactively (i.e. if there's a break-in they'll be checked).



# FOOD NOT BOMBS

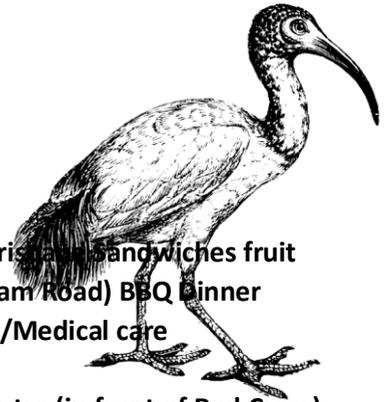


# FOOD VANS

Correct as of late 2016:

## MONDAY

8:00am Queens Wharf Road (Under motorway) Brisbane Sandwiches fruit  
530pm Aspley Rotary Park (Cnr Gympie and Graham Road) BBQ Dinner  
600pm 178 Main Street Beenleigh – Street doctor/Medical care  
700pm Emma Miller Place Vegetarian Meal  
730pm on Bowel Hills Jeays Street Community Centre (in front of Red Cross)  
730pm Emma Miller Place, Roma Street – Hot Drinks  
700pm Corner Turbot and Roma Street – Medical Care/Street Doctor  
630am Fortitude Valley (Ivory street opposite Fire station) Sandwiches fruit  
1000am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street: Morning Tea  
2pm Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Afternoon Tea  
1145am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Hot Lunch  
830am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Breakfast  
900am Fortitude Valley 316 st Pauls Terrace Lunch  
700am Spring Hill Wickham Park (Cnr Wickham/Albert st) BBQ  
700am Spring Hill Wickham Park Sandwiches  
1230pm Spring Hill, Corner Gregory Tce/Boundary St Drinks and Biscuits, GP  
600pm Spring Hill Quarry St Carpark Hot Food and Drinks  
845pm Spring Hill Corner Gregory Tce/Boundary St Drinks and Biscuits  
930pm Spring Hill Pindari 28 Quarry Street Drinks and Biscuits.  
730am West End Riverside Drive (Under Go Between Bridge)  
Sandwiches/Fruit/Hot Drinks  
800pm West End Corner Russel Street and Boundary Road Drinks and Biscuits  
900am Ipswich 1 Darling Street East (Woodend) Food Hampers



## TUESDAY

7:00pm Annerley Mary Immaculate Church, 616 Ipswich Road Snacks & Drinks  
8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit  
6:00pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place  
6:00pm Caboolture Centenary Lakes, Morayfield Rd 6.00pm to 8.00pm Soup  
6:45am Fortitude Valley Kemp Place (opposite Fire Station) BBQ  
10:00am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Morning Tea 139 Club  
6:30am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane

## **Drink and Biscuits**

**2:00pm Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Afternoon**

**11:45am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Hot Lunch**

**8:30am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Breakfast**

**6:00am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street & Harrison Lane Free Laundry Service**

**9:00am Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Lunch Pack (9am 12pm, 12:45pm 3:30pm)**

**10:00am Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Social BBQ**

**7:30pm South Brisbane Ozcare Men's Hostel, 48 Peel Street**

**7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Cnr. Wickham Tce and Albert St, Sandwiches**

**10:00am Spring Hill 43 St Pauls Terrace Morning Tea & Lunch**

**9:00am Woodend. Ipswich 1 Darling Street East Food Hampers**



## **WEDNESDAY**

**6:30am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Corner Wickham Tce and Albert St Snacks**

**7:30pm Bowen Hills Jeays Street (in front of the Red Cross Building) Snacks**

**8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit**

**8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit**

**7:00pm Brisbane Turbot Street (under the bridge) Medical care, 7pm 10pm**

**7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Roma Street Hot Drinks**

**6:30am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane**

**10:00am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Morning Tea 139 Club**

**2:00pm Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Afternoon Tea 139 Club**

**11:45am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Hot Lunch 139 Club**

**8:30am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Breakfast**

**6:30am Fortitude Valley Kemp Place, Ivory Street, Opposite Fire Station BBQ**

**9:30pm Fortitude Valley Wesley Mission, Corner St Pauls Terrace and Warry**

**9:00am Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Lunch Pack**

**6:30pm Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Community Meal**

**5:00pm Ipswich Queens Park Hot Drinks**

**5:30pm Ipswich Queens Park BBQ**

**7:00pm Logan Peoples Place Park (Car Park), Corner Station Road & Wembley**

**8:30am Newstead 105 Commercial Road Lunch**

**4:30pm Sandgate Sandgate Community Centre, 153 Rainbow Street BBQ**

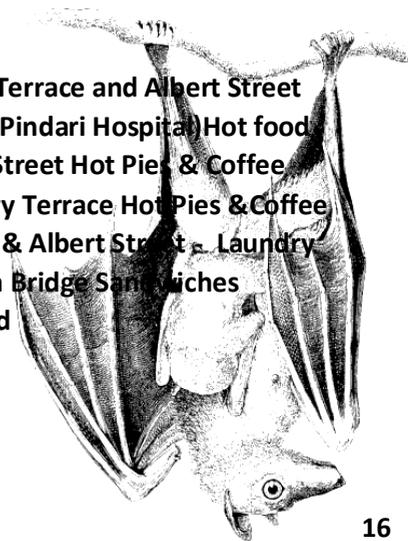
**12:00pm South Brisbane Musgrave Park, 121 Cordelia Street Hot Pies & Hot**

**7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Corner Wickham Terrace and Albert Street**

9:45am Spring Hill Pindari Men's Hostel, 28 Quarry Street Hot Pies  
 10:30am Spring Hill Corner Boundary Street & Gregory Terrace Hot Pies  
 7:30pm Spring Hill 127 Boundary Street Hot Pies  
 8:00pm Spring Hill Pindari Men's Hostel, 28 Quarry Street Hot Pies  
 8:45pm Spring Hill Boarding Houses, Corner Gregory Terrace and Boundary  
 7:30am West End Riverside Drive under Go Between Bridge Sandwiches,  
 5:30pm West End Boat Ramp Parking Bay, Riverside Drive Hamburgers  
 8:00pm West End Corner Boundary Road and Russell Street Drinks and Biscuits  
 4:00pm West End West End Community Park (Small Park), 155 Boundary Street  
 11:30am West End Murray Country Project, Corner Boundary Road & Russell  
 9:00am Woodend. Ipswich 1 Darling Street East Food Hampers

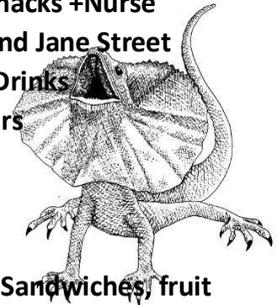
## THURSDAY

9:00am Annerley Church of Christ, 459 Annerley Road  
 11:00am Aspley Aspley Rotary Park, Corner Gympie Road and Graham Road  
 8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit  
 6:30am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane  
 10:00am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street  
 2:00pm Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Afternoon Tea 139 Club  
 11:45am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Hot Lunch  
 8:30am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Breakfast  
 8:15pm Fortitude Valley Warrie Street Hot Pies  
 9:00am Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Lunch Pack  
 7:30pm Herston Herston Lodge, 129 Butterfield Street Hot Pies  
 5:30pm Ipswich Queens Park BBQ  
 5:00pm Ipswich Queens Park Hot Drinks  
 7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Corner Wickham Terrace and Albert Street  
 6:00pm Spring Hill Carpark, Quarry Street (opposite Pindari Hospital) Hot food  
 7:00pm Spring Hill Pindari Men's Hostel, 28 Quarry Street Hot Pies & Coffee  
 7:45pm Spring Hill Corner Boundary Street & Gregory Terrace Hot Pies & Coffee  
 6:30am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Wickham Terrace & Albert Street Laundry  
 7:30am West End Riverside Drive under Go Between Bridge Sandwiches  
 9:00am Woodend. Ipswich 1 Darling Street East Food Hampers



# FRIDAY

- 8:15pm Bowen Hills Jeays Street Hot Pies & Hot Coffee
- 9:00am Bowen Hills Red Cross, Jeays Street Free Laundry Service
- 8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches,
- 7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Little Roma Street Drinks and Biscuits
- 5:30pm Brisbane Corner Albert Street and Wickham Tce BBQ Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.
- 7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Little Roma Street Hot Drinks
- 8:30am Fortitude Valley 505 Brunswick Street Breakfast
- 5:30pm Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane
- Drinks and snacks 8:45pm Fortitude Valley Fortitude Valley Train Station, Brunswick Street Hot Pies & Hot Coffee
- 9:15pm Fortitude Valley Pindari, 28 Quarry Street Drinks and Biscuits
- 9:00am Fortitude Valley 316 St Pauls Terrace Lunch Pack
- 5:30pm Goodna Diggers Rest (Cnr Church and Queens Street) BBQ in the Park
- 4:00pm Goodna PJ Galligan Park, Dowden Street (1st & 3rd Fridays)
- 7:00pm Ipswich Corner of Brisbane & Nicholas Streets Hot Drinks
- 5:30pm Sandgate Sandgate Community Centre, 153 Rainbow Street Hot meal
- 7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Corner Wickham Terrace and Albert Street
- 7:45pm Spring Hill Pindari Men's Hostel, 28 Quarry Street Hot Pies & Coffee
- 8:45pm Spring Hill Boarding Houses, Corner Gregory Terrace and Boundary
- 6:30pm West End Food Not Bombs Opposite the Lizard Boundary Street.
- 7:00pm Upper Mt Gravatt 1693 Logan Road Food and Drinks
- 7:30am West End Riverside Drive under Go Between Bridge Sandwiches, fruit
- 9:30am West End Small Park / AAA Kiosk, Boundary Street Snacks +Nurse
- 10:25am West End Westend Marketplace, Montague Road and Jane Street
- 8:00pm West End Corner Boundary Road and Russell Street Drinks
- 9:00am Woodend. Ipswich 1 Darling Street East Food Hampers



# SATURDAY

- 8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit
- 7:45pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place Vegetarian
- 7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Little Roma Street Food + Drug Arm SOS
- 7:00pm Brisbane Corner Roma and Turbot Street (Little Roma Street car park)
- 11:30am Brisbane Corner Ann & Creek Street 2 course hot meal
- 7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Little Roma Street Hot Drinks

6:30am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane  
9:30pm Fortitude Valley Wesley Mission, Corner St Pauls Terrace and Warry  
6:00pm North Ipswich Browns Park BBQ & Home Cooked Meals  
5:30pm Sandgate Einbunpin Lagoon, corner of Brighton Road and Keogh  
6:00pm Sandgate Memorial Park Various  
7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Cnr. Wickham Tce and Albert St, Sandwiches,  
8:45pm Spring Hill Boarding Houses, Corner Gregory Terrace and Boundary st  
7:30am West End Riverside Drive under Go Between Bridge Sandwiches, fruit  
8:00pm West End Corner Boundary Road and Russell Street

## SUNDAY

6:30am Fortitude Valley Ivory Street (opposite Fire Station) / Harrison Lane  
Sandwiches 7:00pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place Vegetarian  
7:00am Spring Hill Wickham Park, Cnr. Wickham Tce and Albert St, Sandwiches  
7:30pm Brisbane Emma Miller Place, Roma Street Hot Drinks  
8:00am Brisbane Queens Wharf Road (under the motorway) Sandwiches, fruit  
7:00pm Brisbane Turbot Street and North Quay (under the bridge) Medical  
1:30pm Inala Inala PCYC, 37 Swallow Street Light Refreshments  
4:30pm Inala Inala PCYC, 37 Swallow Street Dinner  
7:30am West End Riverside Drive under Go Between Bridge Sandwiches, fruit  
5:30pm West End APSL Hall, 174 Boundary Street Home Cooked Meal  
9:00am Logan Police Park, Logan Gardens Hot Breakfast



# EMERGENCY RELIEF & AID ORGANISATIONS



*For most places you'll need  
an income statement and ID*



## **139 Club**

Housing assistance, budgeting, food, storage lockers.  
Can collect personal mail from this facility.  
3254 1144            505 Brunswick st Fortitude Valley  
8:30am-4:30pm Monday—Friday

## **Aboriginal/TSI Community Health Service**

55 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba: 3240 8924/3240 8900  
55 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba (Youth Service): 3240 8970  
1277 Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge: 3029 6502  
24 Commerce Road Drive, Browns Plains: 3239 4300  
41 Station Road, Logan: 3240 8940  
5 Charles Avenue, Woodridge: 3029 6527

## **Blindeye Drop in Centre**

19 Merivale Street South Brisbane    ph 0414 353 113

## **Brisbane Youth Service**

Main Hub: 42 McLachlan St, Fortitude Valley ph: 3252 3750 / 3260 2400  
Centre for Young Women: 3620 2452 Centre for Young Families: 3620 2482

## **Caddies Community Care**

19-33 South St Jimboomba    ph: 5547 8077  
Emergency relief, loan schemes, social activities, internet

## **Cannon Hill Family Support**

29 Beauvardia st Cannon Hill / 3252 4371  
Food, financial assistance, parenting courses by appointment.

## **Crestmead Community Centre**

Gimlet street, Crestmead 3805 1125 Emergency Relief Wednesday

## **Co-As-It Italian Welfare**

42 Newberry street Newmarket 3252 5755 / 3262 5755 Emergency relief

## **Church – Upper Room Ministries**

10-14 Estramina Road, Regents Park ph 3800 0037

Food parcels, clothes, Furniture, Emergency Relief

## **Centre for Family & Kids Logan**

254 Lagaranda Ave. Kingston ph 3808 5288

Food parcels, clothes, Emergency relief, counselling

## **Communityfy**

180 Jubilee Terrace Bardon ph: 3510 2700

Programs and activities, emergency relief, mental health, relationship support, refugee support.

## **Darra Vietnamese Community Centre**

3709 Ipswich Road, Darra ph 3375 5700 Emergency relief until 2pm.

## **Goodna Anglican Welfare**

73 Alice St Goodna Ph: 3818 0945 Crisis support, food parcels, clothing

## **Goodna Youth Services**

11 William st Goodna ph 3818 1050

## **Ipswich Housing and Support Services**

14 South Station Road Booval ph 3816 1435

## **Immigrant Womens Support Service**

West End 3846 3490 Intake Worker Monday-Friday 9-4

## **Laidley Care Centre**

13 Mary Street Laidley ph 5465 1889 Emergency relief Tues/Thurs

## **Logan East Community Centre**

Corner Cinderella dr / Vanessa Blvd Springwood ph. 3808 4529

No Interest Loans, Emergency Relief.



## **Logan Uniting Church (Food parcels)**

129 Dennis Road Springwood ph 3290 1277

## **Metro Community Care**

Princess theatre, 8 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba  
ph. 1300 775 503 Food parcels, can deliver

## **Mt Gravatt Community Centre**

1693 Logan Road Mt Gravatt ph: 3343 9833

## **Micah Projects**

182 Boundary st West End ph. 3029 7000

## **Multicultural Development Association**

28 Dibley Street, Woolloongabba ph 3337 5400  
Services available for migrants less than 5 years in Oz

## **Multilink Community Services**

38 Blackwood Road Logan ph: 3808 4463  
Pacific Islander advocacy service, emergency relief, food.

## **Newfarm Neighbourhood Centre**

967 Brunswick St Newfarm ph 3852 4544  
Tenant advice and advocacy, meals.

## **Redcross Night Café**

93 Brunswick st, Fortitude valley ph 3319 4200  
Showers, free meals, support, Tues—Thurs 630pm—  
830pm

## **Salvation Army Emergency Relief**

BRISBANE 167 Ann St ph 3221 3461 / 1300 371  
288 INALA 83 Inala Avenue ph 3372 1889

## **Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre**

38 Thallon Street Sherwood ph 3379 6963 Hous-  
ing support, Food parcels Wednesday mornings.

## **St Vincent de Paul Emergency Relief**

10 Merivale St South Brisbane ph 3010 1000 / 3010 1096



## Sandgate Uniting Church

116 Board st Deagon ph 3869 0277 Food parcels Mon-Fri 830am-12

## Tribe of Judah

16 Queens Road Kingston ph 3290 3610 Food Monday—Friday 830—3

## The Loaves and Fishes

29 Mary Street Kingston ph 3808

5713 Food parcels

## Visible Ink Youth Space

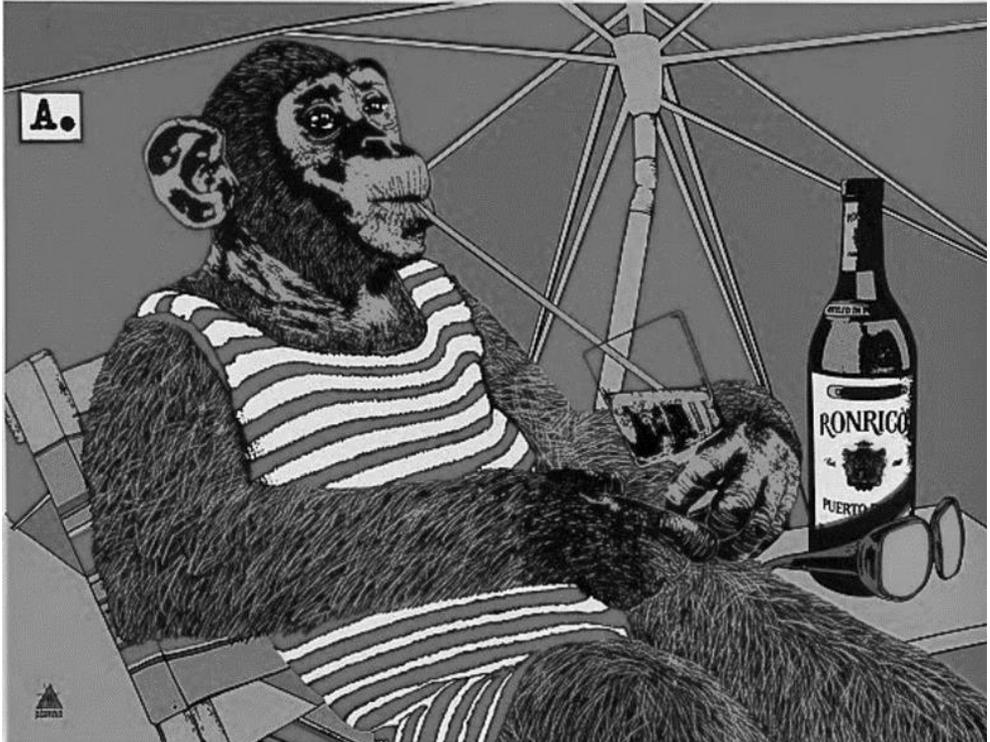
5 Green Square Fortitude Valley ph 3403 01363

## YOS Youth and Outreach Service

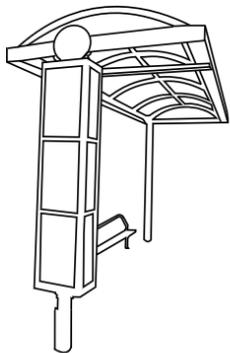
97 School st Spring Hill ph 3854 1245

Referrals, dropin space, emergency reief.

**Q. If the unemployed are dole bludgers,  
What the fuck are the idle rich?**



# PART II: THE NEED FOR SHELTER



This section will be divided into:

- A) Accommodation listings
- B) Domestic Violence, crisis shelters and support
- C) Gaining access to long term accommodation
- D) Squatter's Handbook
- E) Eviction

## A) CRISIS ACCOMMODATION AND BOARDING HOUSES

If you've tried all other options – friends, family etc – then you're going to need a form of crisis accommodation which you can hopefully use as a base to sort out other issues and to gain stable, suitable accommodation (discussed in the next section). If you are a couple or family with children, be prepared for the possibility that you may have to separate. It is strongly advised that you explore all other possible options first. Applying for a rental grant or bond payment can help with getting into places (See Bond Loan & Rental Grant section). If you need to get into somewhere but don't have the money, you can try either calling up Centrelink to get your payment forwarded, or raise the money through an Emergency Relief agency. Note: Supported accommodation provides accommodation, care, support, supervision and specific services for people who require day-to-day assistance, for example around disability and medication. Short term usually means three months, medium term 9 months and long term up to a year +.

Calling **Homeless Persons Information QLD** (HPIQ) is another way to look for what's available on the night; Freecall them 24 hours on

**1800 474 753**

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**ANGUS HOUSE**

53-55 Bayliss st, Toowong  
3870 8743 (Mainly Veterans)

**ASHGROVE BOARDING HOUSE**

Several properties in Paddinton/Ashgrove, biggest is 309 Waterworks rd.  
Singles, couples, families. Varied rates, Bond required. Ph 0418 884 466

**AVON BOARDING HOUSE**

9 Gregory tce Spring Hill  
Single male & female 3869 4905

**BORN FREE ABTSI HOSTEL**

27 Brooks St Highgate Hill  
Varying rates ph 3846 5733

**BORN FREE ABTSI HOSTEL**

27 Brooks St Highgate Hill  
Varying rates ph 3846 5733

**CLIVEDON'S MANSION**

17 Gregory Tce, Spring Hill  
\$185/week + Bond, 3831 1780

**ELLEY BENNETT MEN'S HOSTEL**

502 Brunswick st, the Valley  
3358 1175

**JOYCE WILDING HOSTEL**

2361 Logan rd 8 Mile Plains 3841 0718  
Single females and families short term

**KYAH**

270 Boundary st Spring Hill  
Long term \$165 per week 3831 8423

**NEW FARM LODGE**

133 Merthyr rd New Farm, singles  
0476 686 623 Varying rooms/rates

**AVONDALE**

179 Musgrave rd, Red Hill 3369 6565  
singles, couples, \$190/week no bond

**ANGLICAN WOMEN'S HOSTEL**

31 Bent st Toowong  
ph 1300 610 610

**BOWMAN JOHNSON ABTSI HOSTEL**

5 Oxford st, South Brisbane  
Varying rates ph 3844 2115

**BOWMAN JOHNSON ABTSI HOSTEL**

5 Oxford st, South Brisbane  
Varying rates ph 3844 2115

**EDGEWATER**

577 Ipswich Road, Annerley  
ph. 3892 4761

**IRISH INN**

77 Heal St New Farm 0418 432 081  
Single \$185 / Studio \$275 + Bond.

**KELVIN GROVE LODGE**

67 Eureka st Kelvin Grove  
3356 3976 Singles only.

**MUSGRAVE PARK ABORIGINAL HOSTEL**

196 Boundary st, West End  
\$133 per week / 3846 5160

**OZCARE HOSTEL**

38 Peel Street South Brisbane  
3028 4350

**PINDARI MENS/WOMENS**

28 Quarry st Spring Hill ph 3832 1491  
Single mens/womens at different sites

**MURRI WATCH DIVERSION**

Bed for the night, referral required  
ph 3891 2822

**BALMORAL HOUSE**

33 Amelia st Fortitude Valley  
3257 0799

**BAHLOO WOMEN'S SHELTER**

33 Amelia st Fortitude Valley  
3891 2815

**ANNIES SHANDON INN**

405 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane  
Phone: 3831 8684

**YOUTH HOUSE**

1 Pettigrew Street, Woodend (Ipswich)  
3812 1395

**KYABRA FAMILIES & YOUTH**

Kyabra St, Runcorn ph. 3373 9499

**LIONS EMERGENCY ACCOM.**

16 Carroll Street Nambour 5441 3837

**ROMA HOUSE**

535 Wickham tce, Referral required  
3434 7100

**HERSTON LODGE**

Level 3 Support 129 Butterfield st Herston  
3257 3488

**QUIET & COSY**

15 Browning st South Brisbane  
ph. 0414 656 180

**YERONGA BOARDING HOUSE**

117 Park rd Yeronga  
ph 0410 056 381 \$196/week

**BALLYMORE SUPPORTED ACCOM.**

46 Fleming rd. Herston  
3252 7940

**ASPLEY CARAVAN PARK**

763 Zillmere rd Aspley  
32563 4040

**HEBRON YOUTH HOUSE**

300 Kelvin Grove Rd  
3356 6824

**IPSWICH YOUTH SERVICE**

26 Larey st. Ipswich  
3812 1199

**LEWIS STREET SHELTER**

10 Lewis Street Redbank  
Phone: 3381 8316

**NEW HOPE HOUSE (YOUTH)**

3356 6824

**YUMBA ABORIGINAL HOSTEL**

55 Gray Road, Hill End  
3844 3721

# B) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Domestic violence isn't just physical – it can be:**

**Physical** - pain, pushing, shaking, slapping, forcing you to do things against your will, damage to property

**Emotional** - making threats, speaking in a way that is frightening, putting you down, emotional blackmail

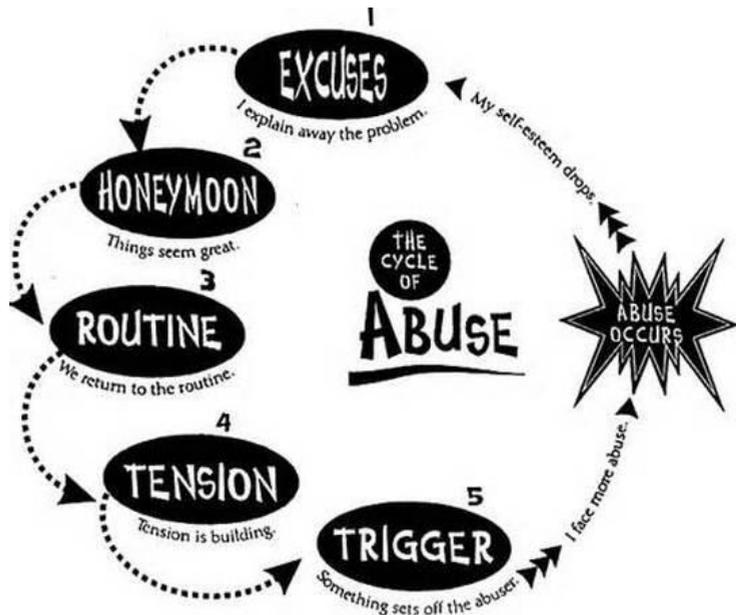
**Economic** - controlling your money, keeping you financially dependent.

**Social** - insulting you or teasing you in front of other people, keeping you isolated from your friends and family, controlling what you do

**Spiritual** - dominating and disregarding your values, religion, cultural beliefs and values.

## **Some signs you may be in an abusive relationship..**

Your partner often verbally puts you down in front of others.. Does your partner's actions contradict what they are saying.. Your partner tries hard to make you dependent on them.. You often change things about yourself to please your partner.. Your partner is controlling, they show up at places to check on you, read your mail or texts.. Does your partner isolate you from your friends and family? Do they always blame you for their faults and bad luck? Always make you feel guilty and at fault? Does your partner make you feel on top of the world one moment and demoralise you the next? Does your partner dominate you to the extent of controlling what you wear/look like, treat you inferior and force you to consider them your main priority in life? Does your partner get jealous of you, your friends, your successes? Does your partner not let you see friends of the opposite sex?



## **A Note on Consent.**

Many perpetrators of sexual violence in the aftermath say things like "I didn't mean for things to happen the way they did." It's likely that a lot of people after they've made mistakes certainly regret it and would do it differently if they could. Knowing what acting with intention feels like is a key part of a healthy relationship, especially for people with a history of sexual assault. Sexual assault often happens through the perpetrator forcing what they want onto you in a way that slowly pushes your boundaries a tiny amount at a time (in the level of physical contact, in distance, in emotion..).

If you can't communicate your boundaries, ask about someone else's boundaries and act appropriately. Trust and boundaries are key elements to any sort of relationship, whether it's based on friendship, organising, work or romance. You are Never entitled to sex or people's minds or bodies.

You aren't entitled to sex because someone gave their consent last time, or it seems like they want it. It's your job to make sure that you and your partner's boundaries are on the table and respected every time.

*No one deserves an abusive relationship. If you are fleeing domestic violence you may be able to access a domestic violence shelter through DV Connect. It is important to call as soon as possible and explain your situation, as many shelters are under-resourced and can be extremely rigid in whom they take depending on the length of time separating the domestic violence incident. As funding decreases, so does safety as DV centres are increasingly forced to use hotels as shelters.*

**DV CONNECT** Phone: 1800 811 811 (WOMEN)    1800 600 636 (MEN)

### **Brisbane Sexual Assault Service**

Crisis Services: 3636 5206 After Hours: 3636 5206 Counselling: 3636 5207

**Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline (24 hour):** Phone: 1800 010 120

**Zig Zag**    575 Old Cleveland Rd, Camp Hill.    Phone: 3843 1823

**Legal Aid DV Applications:** Ph: 3238 3562    44 Herschel Street Brisbane

### **Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (BDVAS)**

Phone: (07) 3217 2544    Crisis counselling, advocacy, referrals

# C) LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION

The following will outline a few paths you can try. If you think you've been TICA blacklisted and barred from private rental, get a homeless service to check and advocate for you.

## 1) OPEN REAL ESTATE Try:

realestate.com   share-house.com.au   flatmates.com.au  
domain.com.au                      brisbanerealestate.com.au  
brisbane.gumtree.com.au              Rent Connect: 13 74 68

## 2) COMMUNITY HOUSING WAITING LISTS:

Community Housing waiting lists can take months and years, but at least it's leading somewhere. Getting a support letter from Emergency Relief places can help. To get on these waiting lists you first need to get an interview with your local Department of Housing and fill out a 'Form 7' Application for Housing Assistance. Once you've had your interview with the Department of Housing you can arrange for interviews with various community housing schemes. Call up regularly to remind them of your situation.

### HOUSING ORGANISATIONS:

**Department of Housing:** 3229 9416

**Churches of Christ Housing:** 3327 1674 (Kenmore) 5503 0974 (Southport)

**Lifeline Housing for Families:** 766 Gympie rd Chermside ph. 3624 2480

**INCH Housing:** 106 Victoria st Windsor ph. 3857 7070

**Mangrove Housing:** 182 Bay Terrace Wynnum ph. 3893 2765

**Brisbane Common Ground:** 15 Hope st. South Brisbane ph. 3217 2135

**Sunshine Coast Regional Housing:** 15 Sydney st Nambour ph. 5451 2900

## 3) NATIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY SCHEME (NRAS):

These are properties 20% below market rent scattered across Brisbane. Contact the Department of Communities on 1300 880 882 and apply for eligibility.

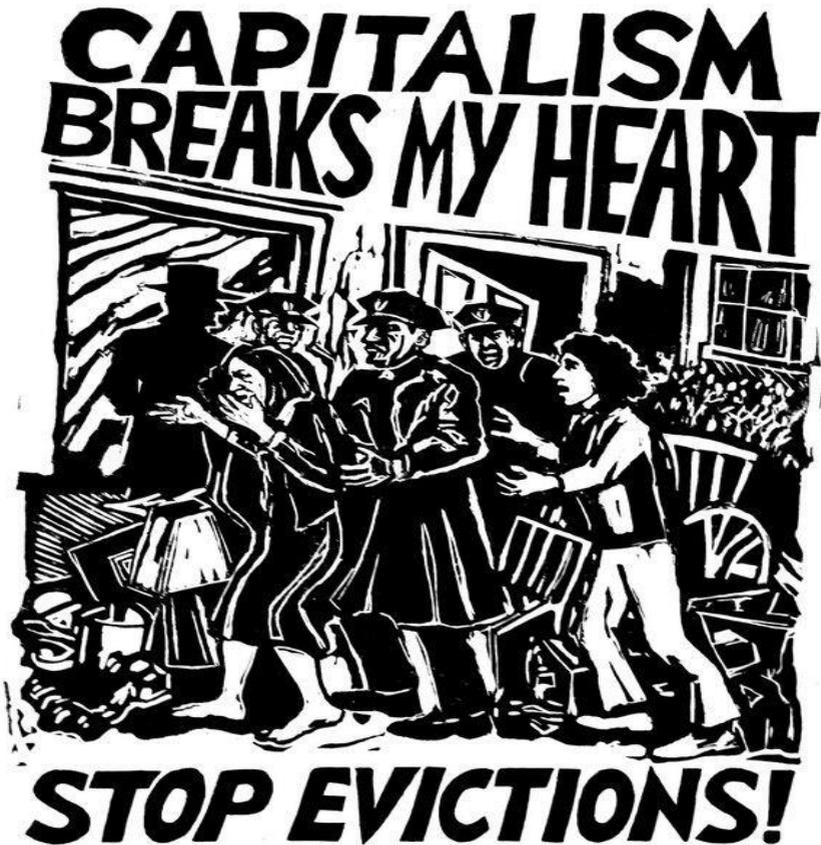
# BOND LOANS & RENTAL GRANTS

These can help you to secure your accommodation. A Bond Loan is an interest free loan to pay a full rental bond to move into private rental accommodation. A Rental Grant is a once-only grant for two weeks initial rent. You can tick both! You can be eligible for these if..

- You do not own residential property, a caravan/mobile home etc
- You do not have debts with Department of Housing\*
- You choose a property that does not exceed 60% of the total household weekly income
- You have proven difficulty through spending 28 continuous days in a department approved centre (crisis accommodation etc).

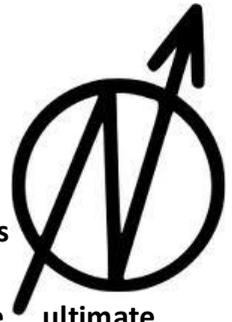
To apply, pick up a Rental Assistance form from an emergency relief place, or find it on the Department of Housing website. Be aware that some landlords won't accept Bond loans or Rental grants. You also need to get the form checked off by a Justice of the Peace.

**\*To get around debts get a support letter from an E.R Agency.**



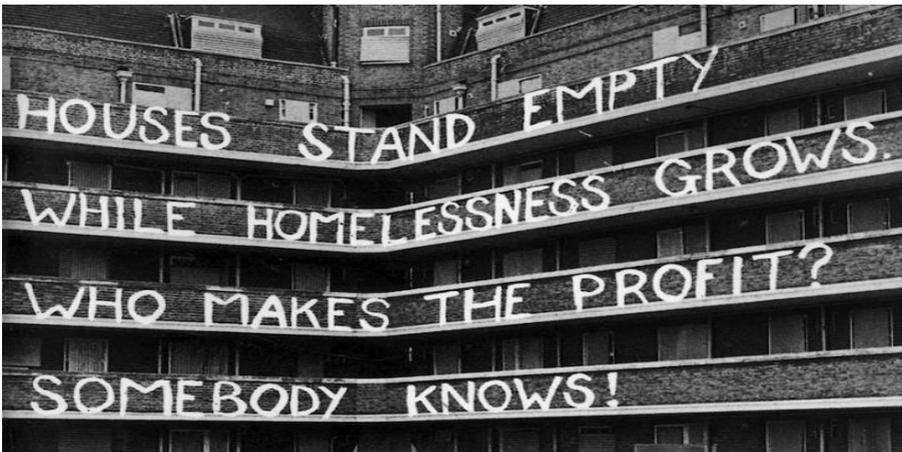
# SQUATTER'S HANDBOOK

Taken from BSN's QLD Squatting Handbook



Squatting is the oldest mode of tenure in the Western world and most of us are descended from squatters. This is as true of the Queen with her 176,000 acres as it is with most house owners/occupiers in Australia. They are all the ultimate recipients of stolen land, for to regard our planet as a commodity to be held individually, bought, sold and exploited offends every conceivable principle of natural rights.

*At certain periods in Australia's more recent history squatting has been tolerated as a necessary housing solution. Squatting today is the act of making use of empty, disused and abandoned property - to help yourself and others with accommodation or to develop community projects (eg: the world wide squatted social centre movement). If this is an option you're considering, be prepared for a lot of hard work (which might not pay off). Here is some advice, as well as some things you should know.*



# CASE STUDY: WOOLLOOMOOLOO

Victoria Street, Woolloomooloo, was the site of the first public housing campaign in Australia. In 1971 first-time property developer Frank Theeman developed plans to demolish terrace houses and build massive office and apartment towers and in April 1973 he began to institute a mass eviction of over 400 tenants. While some tenants left 'voluntarily', others defiantly stayed in their homes and the Victoria Street Residents Action Group (VRAG) was formed. Street patrols were organised to protect the remaining tenants from intimidation by Theeman's security company, and to protect the empty houses from vandalism. The residents quickly gained the support of the National Trust, which classified Victoria Street as an area of national importance. Most importantly, VRAG approached the then militant Builders' Labourers Federation (BLF), who immediately placed 'green bans' on the threatened houses. 'Green bans' were work bans instituted by builders' labourers in response to community, social and environmental issues as a line of defence against the greed of the bosses.

The green bans placed on the Victoria Street houses effectively prevented them from being demolished. On 10 June 1973, the first group of squatters moved into 57 Victoria Street; over the next seven months the rest of the 22 houses in the street were occupied by a diverse collection of people. Victoria Street became one of the first publicly visible examples of an urban squatting community in NSW. The squatters went to great lengths to live as communally as possible. They removed fences from the yards of adjoining terraces and held weekly consensus-based meetings. The residents established a food co-operative and a shared child-minding centre/ dining area, complete with a rotating cooking roster. Film nights were held in one house; another building was used as a mechanics' workshop. The struggle to defend this community raged on until early 1974 and put Squatting back in the limelight.



# DO'S AND DON'TS ★

*Finding an empty building is generally pretty easy. Most of places that are squattable have been left empty for some time and there will be broken or unlocked windows and doors. The inner city and the suburbs are full of empties ranging from totally destroyed shells to perfectly livable places that have nothing wrong with them. The best way to find a building is to simply walk around the streets and look for the obvious signs. Is there mail overflowing from the letterbox? An overgrown garden? Broken and/or boarded-up windows and doors? Is the power off? If unsure, you might want to ask a postie, a local shop owner or a neighbour if anyone is living in or using a place that you think is empty. It may help if you make out that you're looking to rent the place or acquire it for use by a housing co-op, or researching it as part of an 'architecture' or 'geography' project on housing or whatever - be inventive..*

*Being honest with the neighbours and local residents about your intentions can also be successful although you should be prepared to deal with people's prejudices. If you decide to be straight up then explain your case to them. Give them some figures on how many people are homeless and/or on the waiting list for public housing and unable to find affordable housing in the private rental market. Tell them how you came to be in the situation you're in.*



*Check all of the obvious access points - doors, windows, skylights, holes covered by board or tin etc - to see if they allow you entry into the building. Kids or people looking to find stuff to sell may have already opened one of the windows or doorways and in so doing saved you from a lot of work. If the place still seems fairly secure after checking it out, then you will need to get a bit more tricky. Dressing in overalls or work uniform (or suits!) may help divert some of the attention of others and keep you focused on the task at hand. It is important to know who owns a building you squat or consider squatting, and what the owner intends to do with it. Usually this is easy as letters are piled up in the letterbox . Ask the neighbours if they know. Failing this, you can go to the Land Titles Office, which can also tell you if there are any development applications for the place or if it is going to be demolished in the near future (Have the lot and address handy).*

**Land Titles Office: Mineral House, 41 George St Brisbane.** *A knowledge of the history and intended future of the building will help you to realistically evaluate the risks and benefits of squatting there.*

## MOVING IN

The first few days/weeks which you spend inside are critical so make sure that no-one is left alone and that the building is left empty as little as possible during this time. Once you have secured the house there will probably be quite a few things needing repair and cleaning up anyway. Get friends to come around, both to help and just to be there. Use this time early on to establish your new home. Cleaning up any rubbish that has been left outside and putting curtains will probably send a good message to the neighbours that you are not going to trash the place. If the owner[s] or the police turn up, it is important that you tell them that the premises were open and that you just walked in. A good rule here is : Never admit to forcibly entering the place.

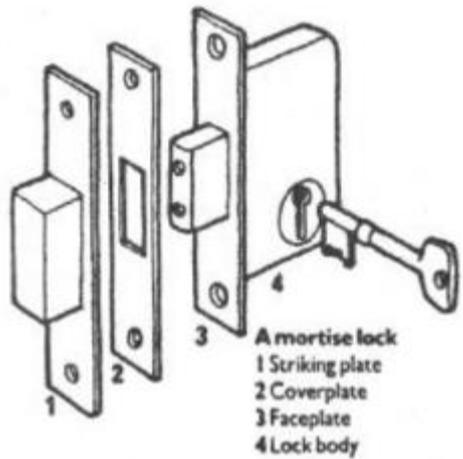
Most empty houses are old and ill-equipped in terms of living standards and there may be problems with water-pipes, hot water units, leakages, electricity, etc. To ensure that the house functions to your satisfaction, repairs will have to be done. In most cases, the problems aren't very big. Services such as electricity, water and gas cannot be legally denied to you as long as the wiring and plumbing, etc is still intact. All that is usually required

to get them connected is a phone call to the appropriate company. Sometimes you will also need to provide a work number or information about your social security status. You can always ask friends to pose as your landlord or employer if required. Try not to tell them that you are squatting as they may stuff you around or demand you pay a bond. If they are making it difficult for you to access services then remind them that state government guidelines hold that all essential services must be connected on request regardless of the status of the resident. Always check and repair the plumbing and wiring before applying for a connection. If parts are damaged beyond what you are capable of learning to repair, and services are unavailable until repairs are made, then you may need the services of a trades-person. Again, try not to let trades-people know that you are squatting because they may assume that you are not going to pay them, and so refuse you service.

### **ONCE YOU'RE SETTLED IN..**

Once everything is repaired and cleaned up you can now just get on with things as normal. Just as you have taken the initiative to find an empty and turn it into your home, so can anyone else. You may choose to have an open squat with lots of people living in the place and any visitors welcome to stay as long as there is space to crash. But there is no reason to think that just because you are squatting you have to open your house to anyone who knocks on your door and says they're homeless. There is also no reason not to give them help and advice though. In the end it's up to you, the people who have opened the squat, to decide how and with whom you want to live. On opening your squat you should bring along new barrels for locks, slide bolts, a torch or candles, a hammer, screwdriver, etc. Once you are inside your new home, you will firstly need to change all the locks so that you can feel secure and safe and keep out anyone that you don't want coming in. Most houses are fitted with the standard Lockwood barrel. You will need a phillips-head screwdriver to remove the three screws from the back section. Two long screws secure the backing plate and the barrel/cylinder to the door. Remove these and the barrel will be released. The barrel should be the only part of the lock that needs to be replaced. These can be purchased at almost any hardware store. The replacement process is pretty straight-

forward. Most of the problems associated with this process concern the proper fitting of the tongue inside the lock. Sometimes the tongue is too long and will need trimming to suit the thickness of the door. You can tell if the tongue is too long by sliding the new barrel into position with the tongue fitted into the slot provided. To shorten the tongue and so properly fit the lock to the door you will need a hacksaw and something to hold it (pliers or vice) while you cut it to the proper length. There are many different types of locks. If you encounter difficulties then talking to staff at your local hardware store will be the best option as they may know what you have to do or at least have some diagrams.



## MAINTENANCE – Basic DIY

Whilst there are exceptions, most empty houses are old and often their essential facilities are in want of repair. In most cases, however, the problems aren't very big and you will find that you can do them yourself without having to pay tradespeople to do it for you.

### 1. Broken copper pipes.

Make sure that the water mains are turned off. Broken or cracked water piping (most houses have copper) can be cut and repaired. To go about it, cut out the cracked section with a hacksaw [see diagram one]. Then get a piece of garden hose and two hose-clips to ensure that there are no leaks. Get the right sized hose-clips to fit the hose to the pipe. Put the clips in the centre of the hose piece, then slip the copper pipe into one end and out the other. To finish up, place the clips on either side of the hose and tighten the clips with the right screwdriver

### 2. Cracked PVC pipes.

Cracked and/or leaking pipes are very easy to repair. If you have cracks in bends; ie, traps under sinks or basins take to it with leak sealant. When using a sealant, ensure that the surface is dry for better and longer sealing. If it is a straight section of pipe, get some duct tape and secure it tightly around the

pipe so that there are no air bubbles. Again, there has to be a dry surface for better sealing.

### 3. Leaking taps

There are generally two problems with leaky taps : If the tap is leaking while it is off, then the problem is in the spindle. Tap leakages of this kind are generally caused by old or deteriorated washers.

Usually, only a shifting spanner is needed to change tap washers. Some old taps can be badly

corroded. If so, the use of some kind of spray lubricant can make all the difference. To change the washer :

- 1) Make sure that the water is turned off at the mains
- 2) Remove the tap handle. Sometimes there is a button on the handle that conceals a screw. If so, prise the button off and unscrew the screw. The handle should then come off with a bit of a pull.
- 3) Remove the spindle. Once the handle has been removed you will be able to see the end of the spindle surrounded by a flange. The flange will be sitting flat against the tiles or the basin. The flange can be removed by simply unscrewing it anti-clockwise. With the flange removed, you will be able to more fully see the spindle. The spindle can then be removed by securing and turning the shifting spanner around the spindles hexagonal base.
- 4) Replace the tap washer, which is located inside the spindle. It will have been pushed against a 'seat' in order to make a water-tight seal. Using your finger, feel the 'seat' for grooves or nicks that could cause a leak. Put in a new washer, making sure the spindle is turned open so as not to squash the washer. When screwing the spindle back into the tap, reverse the procedure described in the previous step.

If the tap is leaking at the joining of the lever then..

Make sure that the water is turned off at the mains. Unscrew the lever anti-clockwise with a wrench or shifting spanner. Wrap some teflon tape tightly around the worn thread a number of times to prevent further leakage. Screw the lever back on clockwise

### 4. Roof Leaks

Most roof leaks can be repaired with tube silicone in a gun.



# SQUATTING FAQ

(Specific to Queensland):



Recycle the empties !

Just to set the scene: for the purposes of the law, a squatter is simply considered to be a **trespasser**, with one major exception (discussed below). Trespassing is not a crime in most cases, unless property damage or injury is caused. However, trespassing is a tort, which means that someone who trespasses can be sued, and this is true even if they do not cause any damage. Signs which say 'trespassers will be prosecuted' are misleading, as prosecution can only happen for a criminal matter. What the signs mean is that civil proceedings will be commenced against the trespasser. Squatting is a civil, not a criminal matter. Legally squatting should be a civil dispute between you and the owner. The owner can take civil action against you for eviction and compensation (sue you). The police should not be involved unless there is the threat of violence or a breach of the peace however in practice the police are often involved as squatting challenges the notion of property ownership and the restricted use of land – notions the police are employed to uphold. There are no 'legal rights' for squatters. There are, however, certain steps the owner, owners representative or police have to follow if they are to evict you.

## Question 1: What is the eviction process for squatters?

**Answer - There is no fixed eviction process for squatters.**

The owner of the property is legally entitled to eject a trespasser, but may not use any more force than is necessary. If more force is used than necessary, the trespasser may sue for assault. Normally, no force is considered necessary to defend a property against a trespasser. However if the trespasser uses force during or after entry, the occupier is justified in using a similar amount of force to protect themselves and the property. Generally the police are the only ones with the authority to remove you. If the owner is unwilling or unable to remove the squatter, they may call the police and ask them to remove the person/people. **Unfortunately, there is nothing in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act which prescribes a process to be used when a trespasser is to be evicted.**

The correct legal method for an owner to evict involves them applying to the Supreme or County Court for a writ of possession. This rarely happens nowadays as most people leave when this happens or are simply forced out, but if they do follow this path the application is called a Summons and Origination Motion for Summary Possession of Land, and it is issued with an affidavit (a written sworn document) verifying their ownership of the property and the fact that it is now in the unlawful possession of others (namely you). A copy of the Motion and Affidavit are attached to a conspicuous part of the property within 21 days of the Court hearing. You do not have to attend and it is usually useless to do so as unless you can establish a legal right to the possession of the property the Court will make an order for the owner take back possession. The owner then registers this order with the Sheriff who enforces it by breaking in and legally evicting you. Legally there is nothing you can do unless unreasonable force is used, but at least this procedure will give you 21 days to find a new place.

The cost and time delay of a court hearing has meant that owners generally evict by using the Willful Trespass charge. You will be told to leave by the owner or face arrest. If you leave nothing will happen. If you don't you will be arrested and no one will be able to prevent the owner from dumping your possessions on the street.

A final avenue for eviction is for the owner to physically evict you themselves. If you are not at home and they put your stuff out and change the locks then there is little you can do. However if you are there they risk committing unlawful assault. The law is unclear, but it may be that an owner cannot physically evict someone in "possession" of their land and must rely on the police or a court order.

## **Question 2: What if I haven't damaged anything, have changed the locks and am paying rates?**

A - The act of changing locks and paying rates does not prevent a person from being classified as a trespasser. Therefore, in this case, squatters are still able to be ejected from the premises (by using police), but the owner would have to get a court order for eviction. If a court order is made to evict a person from a premises (which would almost certainly be granted on application), and that person refuses to obey the court order, this is a crime. This obviously buys the squatter a bit more time, but they will ultimately be removed.

Changing locks and paying rates is however relevant to the 3<sup>rd</sup> question..

### **Question 3: Do squatters have any rights (similar to the UK) in Queensland?**

A - Yes, but in extremely limited circumstances. There is a legal principle known as 'adverse possession' which means that after a certain period of uninterrupted occupation, a squatter may be recognised as the owner of the property, no matter if the 'true owner' exists or not. This is the ethical approach to squatting; ie. Claiming un-used land.

However, the big proviso with this is that it is in practice very rare for all of the circumstances necessary for adverse possession to come together. The following things must be shown before someone can claim possession of a property in this way:

- a) The property has been abandoned by the 'true owner';
- b) The squatter intended to possess the property;
- c) The squatter, in fact, possessed the property;
- d) The squatter continually 'possessed' the property for at least 12 years.

Changing the locks and paying rates are both evidence of b) and c), but they alone are not enough to prove adverse possession. Probably the most common fact which would prevent someone claiming adverse possession is the 12 year period. If anything happens inconsistent with someone's right to possession within that 12 years, then the right to adverse possession will not accrue. If any of the following happen:

- the true owner attempts to have the squatters removed
- the true owner permits the squatter to stay there
- the squatter moves out of the property
- the squatter fails to demonstrate an intention to possess the property, for example by allowing other people to come and go

..the 12 year period resets. In effect, if the true owner finds out about the fact that their property is being used by someone else, it will be virtually impossible for adverse possession to be found. On vacant open land (non government) adverse possession is claimed by "enclosing" or fencing the land. As a result of these difficulties, adverse possession very rarely occurs. While there have been a handful of cases of this occurring recently in the UK,

it might be that adverse possession is more possible there due to the fact that there are dwellings which are hundreds of years old, and have therefore had the chance to become completely abandoned by the true owner.

#### **Question 4: What offences do I need to be aware of when squatting?**

##### **A- Being found within the precincts of a building without legal excuse:**

This is another one in which you have to prove you have a lawful excuse rather than have the police prove you have done something unlawful. The courts have said that trespass on land is not a crime and so there has to be some unlawful or criminal intent linked to the reason you were found on the premises. This law has been brought in to supposedly punish behaviour linked to a criminal purpose or which "violates community standards of decorum and tranquility that is likely to put the occupiers in fear." Attempting to squat a house for emergency accommodation should not fit this definition. This is much harder to prove once you are squatting as you are now the occupants and residing on a property is surely an excuse for being there.

**Willful Trespass:** This is a common charge used to evict squatters. The law was changed in 1998 and a number of aspects are yet to be tested in court. The old trespass law was used when a squatter had been asked to leave the property by an owner (or their agent) and that person refused or failed to leave. If you left within a reasonable time (which was often defined by the circumstances, but generally meant enough time to gather and secure your valuables) then no offence had been committed. Under the new law you are not meant to enter the property without permission from the owner or occupier. If you have a reasonable excuse for entering without the owner's consent then this is a defence against the charge. Unlike the old law the police now no longer need to get the owner or occupier to tell you to leave as you are the one who has to prove that you have the owners' or occupiers' permission. However squatting a house gives you "occupation" and as a result you may be able to argue that you do not need the occupiers' permission as you are the occupier! If you have taken a caveat out on the property (see "Squatters Title" section) then this argument has additional strength as you have legally registered yourself as the occupier.

**Property Damage:** If there are signs of damage or 'breaking and entering' this is big trouble for you; the onus is on you to prove that the property was

was accessible and open.

**Possession of house breaking implements:** This is an alternative to the charge above. It is a summary offence. It is easier for the police to prove as they don't have to show any "intent". Once they have proven you were in possession of the "implements" then you have to prove that you had a reasonable excuse for their possession. Because the onus is on you to prove your innocence this can be a tricky one to get around as once you start talking it is hard to avoid answering other difficult questions. Although you have to prove your lawful excuse and not the police it is best to save your explanation for the court.

**Willful Damage:** This is an alternative to Criminal Damage and is a summary offence. Possession of implements with intent to commit a burglary: This where you are found with tools, but there has been no burglary or they can't prove there has been one. With this charge the police must prove that you were "intending to steal, assault someone inside the house or commit criminal damage". Squatting does not come within these three categories, but the police could try this on nonetheless. This is an indictable offence. The main way to avoid being found guilty of this charge is to admit to nothing.

**Criminal Damage:** Intentionally or recklessly causing damage to another's property. Unless caught in the act, or unless you admit to it, it is difficult to prove that any damage was done by you, especially if the property was empty as others may have entered and vandalised the place before you squatted it. To be safe it is best to repair any damage caused (whether by you or by others) as soon as possible. Criminal damage could range from breaking a window to burning down a house and the penalty is imposed accordingly.

## **If police come a-knocking..**

1. Do not open the door. Speak to them from a window.
2. If they attempt to enter, ask to see their search warrant and identification. If possible, write down their names, ID badge numbers, licence plate numbers, what police station they're from, etc. Ask them whose orders they are acting upon (the owner, neighbours, etc). If they request your name and address (of the squat!) you must give it to them if they suspect you have committed an offence, or if they believe that you have information that may help them in the investigation of an indictable offence. You should ask them what the offence is that they suspect you of or which they are investigating.

3. If they claim they are there to evict you at the owner's request then make sure that you get them to tell you the owners name so you can make sure they are not lying. If they are indeed there on behalf of the owner then you will either have to begin negotiating a reasonable period in which you can vacate. If you have taken out a caveat on the property then show them the documentation and inform that you are involved in a civil dispute.
4. If they ask you how you got into the property tell them the door was unlocked or a window was open to avoid the possibility of being charged with forced entry, criminal or willful damage, or possibly burglary.
5. Remind them that squatting is a civil, not a criminal offence, and that you have received legal advice stating you should only talk to the owner.
6. Do your best to avoid antagonising them.
7. Try to obtain a lawyer that you can refer the police to should they wish to know any further information.
8. If you are arrested for an indictable offence the police are able to do a number of things. If you are over 15 they can fingerprint you. They do not have the right to force you to have your photo taken, but there is no power to stop them from taking a photo without force. They cannot take a forensic sample (blood, hair, mouth swabs, etc) without a court order or your consent. You are entitled to call a friend, relative or lawyer before being questioned. Do not let the police select a lawyer for you as such a lawyer will be on their side not yours. Insist on calling a lawyer you know or one from Legal Aid (see Legal Aid section).
9. If arrested you do not have to answer any questions at all, either before arrest or during interrogation. You must be informed of your right to remain silent during interrogation. Once you have spoken you cannot go back to being silent as it will go against you in court. Nothing can go against you for remaining silent in the face of every question except to provide your name and the address of your squat for bail. Sometimes it can best to answer questions, but until you have gained legal advice it is best not to do so. Remain calm, look away and answer 'No Comment.'

**TENANTS ADVICE AND ADVOCACY SERVICE QLD: 1300 744 263**



*UnRealestate and Squatted Social centres in Sydney  
Occupy & Resist – Against Landlordism. For Self-Managed Housing*

## **DON'T BE BULLIED BY YOUR JOB AGENT**

The Australian Unemployed Workers Union is here to help.  
Call our National Advocacy Hotline on (03) 8394 5266  
Get Informed. Get Empowered. Join the AUWU.  
<http://www.unemployedworkersunion.com>

# GETTING I.D

For an 18 + card you need to fill out a CARD18+APPLICATION FORM (F3003) at your nearest Department of Transport. You need to bring along three pieces of I.D (eg: Birth certificate/passport/credit card/medicare card). If you don't have any ID get a support letter explaining the situation. **Brisbane Department of Transport** 229 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane Phone: 13 23 80 Fax: 3305 8350 **Ipswich Department of Transport.** 2 Colvin Street, North Ipswich Phone: 13 23 80b Fax: 07 3202 1860

For Birth Certificates you need to visit the **Department of Births Deaths & Marriages:** 110 George Street, Brisbane Phone: 1300 366 430



*Housing is a battleground  
Every tenant a partisan*

# TICA

TICA is a tenancy blacklist (basically a landlords union!) that acts to keep thousands of people out of private rental. TICA listings may be unlawful; a common example is:

**A tenant left owing some money to the lessor and was listed. However the rental bond was enough to cover the amount owing, so the lessor did not lose any money.**

If you think you're going to get TICA listed, try and bring someone with you to negotiate an alternative with the agent (eg: a payment plan). There is a strict 6 month time frame to remove your listing; visit an E.R agency or call TICA to find out if you're listed. Watch out though— they charge \$5.45 per minute on the phone. **TICA: 1902 220 346**

# **USEFUL ORGANISATIONS**

**Sth Bris Dental Hospital:** 1300 300 850

**Community Bridges Prisoner Support** (13 William st Goodna) 3818 2028

**Sisters Inside Prisoner Support** (326 Montague Road, West End) 3844 5066 Women's

**Legal Service** (8 Ponsonby Street Annerley) 1800 957 957

**Queensland Council for Civil Liberties** 07 3211 3811

**Drug Arm outreach** 1300 656 800

**Injectors Health Network:** 3620 8111

**Prison Fellowship QLD** 07 3399 3190

**Biala Roma st Clinic:** 3837 5600

**Prisoners' Legal Service** 07 3846 5074

**MDA (Refugee support)** 3337 5400

**Prisoner Locator** 3227 6055

**Multilink Immigrant Support Counselling** 3808 4463

**Buddhist Spiritual Care Services** 0409 619 203

**OpenMinds mental health:** 1300 673 664

**Brisbane Gender Clinic** 3017 1777

**YOS Youth Outreach Service:** 3854 1245

**Australian Transgender Support Group** 3843 5024

**Karuna Hospice:** 3632 8300

**Prison Transport Group** 3391 1911

**A Place to Belong** disability support 3217 2522

**Queensland Parole Board** 3406 2418

**Burke st Mental Health:** 3176 1009

**Parole Boards**

**Christians Against Poverty free debt counselling:** 1300 227 000

Bris: 3406 6077

**Aspleycare** (Transport & Emergency relief): 3862

7145 Greenslopes: 3336 0830

**Telara Child & Family Therapy** Greenslopes: 3397

7287 Chermside: 3405 **5411**

**Stepping Stone Clubhouse** Mental Health Support: 3847

1058 Inala: 3362 9288

**Mission Beat** (assist with transport): 0475

838 895 Ipswich: 3819 7800

**OpenMinds** Disability support services 07

3896 4222 **Arthur Gorrie** Prison 3212 0411

**Vietnamese Community Services:**

3375 5700 **Helana Jones** Prison 07 3624 8033

**SPER Debt Management:**

1300 131 510 **South QLD Prison:** 5466 6888

**Mensline Relationship** Counselling

1300 789 978 **Woodford Prison:** 5496 1111

**Lotus Place** (forgotten

Australians) 3844 0966 **Wolston Prison:** 3271 9500

**North West**

**Aboriginal/TSI Ass.** 3855 5399 **Brisbane Prison:** 3274 9444

**Man**

**with a Van:** Phone: 0404 236 090 **Borallon Prison:** 5460 8401

**Legal Aid QLD:** 1300 65 11 88 **Women's Prison:** 3271 9000

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14 **Anti Discrimination Commission** Queensland Phone: 1300 130 670

**BABI Youth & Family Service** 34 Bay Terrace Wynnum Phone: 3393 4176

**Can Do Community Removalist** 0437 980 004

**13Health** advice: 1343 2584

**Carer Respite Centre** 1800 059 059

**Homeless Persons Legal Aid:** 3846 6317

**Caxton Legan Centre:** Manning st South Brisbane 3214 6332

**Centrelink:** 13 28 50

**Centrelink/Welfare Rights:** 1800 358 511 / 3421 2510

**Dads in Distress:** 1300 853 437

**Footprints Mental Health Support:** 3211 7921

**Homeless Health Outreach Team:** 3834 1673

**Kids Help Line:** 1800 551 900

**Immigrant Women Support Services:** 3846 3490

**Will Do Removals:** 0421932

281 **Kummara Family Care Centre** 3846 5654 221 Boundary Street, West End

**RSPCA Pets in Crisis** Domestic Violence Program: 3426 9916

**House of Freedom** Community Centre 69 Thomas street West End 3217 2522

# EVICTION

The eviction process can take up to three months; the landlord cannot simply kick you out in a day. The landlord HAS to go through a Form 12 and follow the correct time frame (which sadly is very short without a lease - see next page). Despite this many are intimidated and threatened into leaving early before they can find alternative accommodation or sort out their finances. To be evicted a landlord has to..

- 1. Issue a Form 11** – A breach. If the breach is not remedied you'll get a..
- 2. A Form 12** – A Notice to Leave; From here you'll have time until the court date listed on the form (if you're on a lease).
- 3. Finally a Warrant of Possession** – Your landlord has to try and get this issued through the Civil and Administration Tribunal (QCAT).

## **A few things to remember..**

1. DONT BE TRICKED - A tenancy agreement is the same as a lease.
3. You NEVER have to leave the property on a Form 12 - Only police can evict you and that requires a Warrant of Possession (issued by a Judge).
2. If you've simply received a breach (Form 11) your first step should be to negotiate a payment plan with the landlord. If it's reasonable (eg: an agreement to pay an extra \$10-20 per week there should be no problem.
4. Even on a Notice to Leave you can organise a budget and a payment plan to present to the judge. If you don't feel comfortable doing this on your own get a support service to help.
5. Boarding Houses, as of 2010 are COVERED UNDER THE RTA (Residential (Tenancies Authority) Act! Under this legislation landlords have to follow the same process (Form 11 and Form 12). If the landlord thinks differently tell them to call the RTA (1300 366 311).

**Even at the warrant of possession stage you can have up to two weeks to leave (if you're on a lease). You can find out the exact details by either..**

- 1) Calling up QCAT** - from here you can find out how long the warrant of possession will take to be issued to the police. Most of the time it will take up to a week to get it written up.
- 2) Calling up the nearest police station** – If the warrant has already been sent to the police, you can at least call up and find out when they'll be coming over. You may be able to bargain a longer waiting period if they're sympathetic.

# EVICTION PROCESS FOR BOARDING/ ROOMING HOUSES FLOW CHART

(According to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act)

Depends how long you have been living there..



LESS THAN 28 DAYS

IF YOU DON'T PAY THE RENT ON THE DAY IT'S DUE

LANDLORD HAS TO GIVE YOU TWO DAYS NOTICE, BEFORE THEY GIVE YOU A FORM 11 (A BREACH)

IF YOU STILL DON'T PAY THE RENT

LANDLORD CAN GIVE YOU A NOTICE TO LEAVE (FORM 12) IMMEDIATELY

YOU HAVE TO GO

MORE THAN 28 DAYS

IF YOU DON'T PAY THE RENT 2 DAYS AFTER THE DUE DATE

LANDLORD HAS TO GIVE YOU FOUR DAYS NOTICE BEFORE THEY GIVE YOU A FORM 11 (BREACH)

IF YOU STILL DON'T PAY THE RENT

LANDLORD HAS TO GIVE YOU FOUR DAYS NOTICE BEFORE GIVING YOU A NOTICE TO LEAVE (FORM 12)

YOU HAVE TO GO

IF YOU PAY THE RENT OR ORGANISE A PLAN YOU CAN STAY

IF YOU DON'T LEAVE

IF YOU DON'T LEAVE LANDLORD HAS THE POWER TO REMOVE YOU (COPS)

# LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF

1. Dealing with Centrelink
2. Rehab/Health Organisations
3. Sleeping Rough
4. Depression
5. Police

## 1. Getting on Centrelink

Contact Centrelink on 13 17 94 and tell them you want to claim a payment. There are lots of different payments, the most common being Newstart and Youth Allowance. If you don't have ID when you claim Centrelink can pay you for two pays (4 weeks) while you organise ID. If you can't get ID Centrelink can support you in proving your identity to get it.

## 2. What if I don't have a fixed address?

Centrelink have to pay you even if you don't have a place to live. You do have to give them a contact address though. This can be a friends place or a welfare/emergency relief agency.

## 3. Getting through the hoops

Depending on your payment, Centrelink can make you look for work, study or perform some other activity. It's important to remember that legally Centrelink can only ask you to do things that are **reasonable**. They have to consider things like your age/health/education/being homeless etc. Centrelink will penalise you if you don't do their compulsory activities, but they can't do this if you have a reasonable excuse. Centrelink can cut your payment for 8 weeks if you 'refuse a suitable job offer', 'quit your job or get fired for misconduct' or 'if you've had at least three other penalties in six months and Centrelink thinks you didn't go to activities and interviews on purpose'. They have to consider any reasonable excuses.

**Important to remember:** 8 Week penalties can be appealed and Centrelink **must** pay you while they are doing the review (Called a 'payment pending review'). You can also 'work off' the 8 week penalty through applying for certain activities.

**You can appeal any Centrelink decision** – All you have to say is "I want this decision reviewed by an ARO."

## Early payments:

There are three different types of early payments..

1. **Advanced Payment:** This is a once-in-a-year \$500 loan
2. **Urgent Payment:** This is when you dip into your next pay
3. **Crisis Payment:** Grant equal to one week of your pension for domestic violence, neighbourhood violence, floods/fires/one off events

**For help contact WELFARE RIGHTS on: 3421 2510 or 1800 358 511**



# **DETOX/REHAB/OTHER HEALTH SERVICES**

## **Hospitals:**

**Mater Hosptial:** 3163 8664 **PA Hosptial:** 3240 2111 **RBH:** 3253 8111

**Logan Hosptial:** 3299 8899 **QE2 Hosptial:** 32756111

## **Rehab/Mental Health**

**Burke St Mental Health:** Burke st Woolloongabba: 3176 1009

**Harmony Place** Yeronga: 30 Shottery st Yeronga: 3848 1600

**Logan House** 75 Kirk Road, Chambers Flats: 1300 727 957

**Salvation Army Detox:** 56 Glenrosa rd, Red Hill. 3369 0922 / 3369 0355

**Queensland Aboriginals and Islander Corp Drug Dependence Services:**

27 Llewellyn st NewFarm: 3358 5855

**Centre for Human Potential:** 8/288 Edward st City. 3211 1117

**Facing the Fear Anxiety Therapy:** Griffith University Mt Grvatt: 3735 3348

**Gambling Hotline:** 1800 858 858

**Headspace Youth Mental Health Treatment Centre:** 182 Logan Rd

**Woolloongabba:** 1800 55 1800

**Group 61 voluntary mental health support group:**

967 Brunswick st, NewFarm: 3621 4362

**Newfarm Ramsay Health Care Clinic:** 22 Sargent st Newfarm: 3254 9100

**AFAFMI Carers for mental health patients:**

52 Merthyr Road New Farm: 3254 1881

**Transformations by the Bay:** 234 Torquay Tce Brisbane 4194 6621

**Queensland Injectors Health Network:**

1 Hamilton Place Bowen Hills: 3620 8111 / 1800 172 076

**Alcoholics Anonymous Brisbane:** 3255 9162

**Adolescent Drugs and Alcohol Withdrawal Service:**

40 Clarence st South Brisbane: 3163 8400

**Anglicare Amend Program for Pregnant/Parents:** 221 Logan Road

**Buranda** 1300 114 397

**Harm Reduction Centre BHRC:** 270 Roma St, Brisbane ph 3238 4047

**Gillies House:** 21 Kingsford Drive Auchenflower ph 3876 7329

# SLEEPING ROUGH

Privacy is something many take for granted, but for those who have experienced homelessness privacy becomes a mindset rather than a physical reality; and that fortress of privacy adds to the wide chasm between the housed and the homeless. Homeless people are burdened with an obligation to hide. Physical privacy allows a person some rest, a moment to rejuvenate, but homeless people never get a moment to let down their guard. Being alert, guarding belongings and self in public after too long gets exhausting both mentally and physically. To many people getting away from others is the biggest dream; the constant exposure to other people is as eroding as wild weather.

"Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed and well-fed."



- ⊗ Never sleep directly on the ground as you will absorb the cold. Ensure there is some protection between you and the ground (cardboard/ a bench etc).
- ⊗ Make sure your hands, feet and head are covered to retain body heat.
- ⊗ Try not to drink alcohol before sleeping as this causes dehydration and makes your body temperature drop.
- ⊗ Scout out places during the day – public bathrooms, rooftops, air ducts. Be creative. The convention centre has air conditioning and cold water.
- ⊗ The most obvious - alleyways and bus shelters, are not recommended as you're vulnerable and out in the open. Especially avoid places like the Valley – watch out for drunken clubbers looking for someone to pick on.
- ⊗ The best thing is to find somewhere unobserved. The less attention from police and drunks the better. Parks can be okay but attract late night drinkers – choose somewhere behind bushes. Keep the place secret.
- ⊗ If you have access to a car - parks and shopping centres are not a good idea as you will be hassled by police - sleeping in your car is illegal and it's a big alarm for child safety if you have kids with you. **Good areas to park are places like** dark sections in residential neighbourhoods - Park between houses to avoid suspicion. Leave a window a tiny bit open to avoid fogging - a dead give away that you're sleeping inside.

**PUBLIC TOILETS:** Albert st, Brisbane Square, Central station, City Botanic Gardens, Myer, Post Office Square, Roma st Station, South Bank has showers

# DEPRESSION

When experiencing an unstable, transient lifestyle, things like loneliness, anxiety & depression can become a lot more difficult to handle. There are many unaccountable stressors which impact upon those experiencing homelessness and suicide is an all too often occurrence. Depression is a common experience when homeless - stigma, bashings, insecurity, alienation, isolation - these all contribute to a worldview which encourages negative thoughts and feelings. Like all living creatures, we can heal from our injuries and our suffering. If we have a healthy environment, healthy behaviours, healthy relationships, we will recover. We need to identify our histories of trauma, abuse, neglect, grief, and loss. We need to overcome denial on all of our addictive behaviours. We need to provide ourselves with good health care. We need a safe place where we can be who we are, and be welcome. We need quiet, respectful attention as we tell our stories in as much detail and as many times as we need to.

## **Suicide: Helping a suicidal person**

Be yourself. Listen; let the person unload and ventilate anger. No matter how negative the person seems, the fact that they are expressing themselves is a positive sign; a cry for help. Be sympathetic, non-judgmental, patient, calm, accepting. If the caller is saying "I'm so depressed, I can't go on," ask The Question: "Are you having thoughts of suicide?" You are showing them that you are concerned, that you take them seriously, that it is OK for him to share his pain with you. If the answer is yes, you can begin asking a series of further questions: Have you thought about how you would do it (PLAN); Have you got what you need (MEANS); Have you thought about when you would do it (TIME SET). 95% of all suicidal callers will answer no at some point in this series or indicate that the time is set for some date in the future. This will be a relief for both of you as it gives you both time to organise a plan which will increase coping resources. Stay involved but don't go it alone. Look after yourself and find someone to talk to – friends, family or a professional. A person who feels suicidal should get help, and get it sooner rather than later. Research tells us that most people with suicidal thoughts do not want to die, they simply want to stop the pain. Create an action plan towards gaining the resources needed; A person may not have the means to coping, but they may have the means to suicide.

## **Passage: If you are feeling suicidal**

If you are feeling suicidal now, please stop long enough to read this. It will only take about five minutes. I do not want to talk you out of your bad feelings. I am not a therapist or other mental health professional - only someone who knows what it is like to be in pain.

I don't know who you are, or why you are reading this page. I only know that for the moment, you're reading it, and that is good. I can assume that you are here

because you are troubled and considering ending your life. If it were possible, I would prefer to be there with you at this moment, to sit with you and talk, face to face and heart to heart. But since that is not possible, we will have to make do with this. I have known a lot of people who have wanted to kill themselves, so I have some small idea of what you might be feeling. I know that you might not be up to reading a long book, so I am going to keep this short. While we are together here for the next five minutes, I have five simple, practical things I would like to share with you. I won't argue with you about whether you should kill yourself. But I assume that if you are thinking about it, you feel pretty bad. Well, you're still reading, and that's very good. I'd like to ask you to stay with me for the rest of this page. I hope it means that you're at least a *tiny* bit unsure, somewhere deep inside, about whether or not you really will end your life. Often people feel that, even in the deepest darkness of despair. Being unsure about dying is okay and normal. The fact that you are still alive at this minute means you are still a little bit unsure. It means that even while you want to die, at the same time some part of you still wants to live. So let's hang on to that, and keep going for a few more minutes. Start by thinking about this statement:

**Suicide is not chosen; it happens when pain exceeds resources for coping with pain.**

That's all it's about. You are not a bad person, or crazy, or weak, or flawed, because you feel suicidal. It doesn't even mean that you really *want* to die - it only means that you have more pain than you can cope with right now. If I start piling weights on your shoulders, you will eventually collapse if I add enough...no matter how much you want to remain standing. Willpower has nothing to do with it. Of course you would cheer yourself up, if you could.



Don't accept it if someone tells you, "that's not enough to be suicidal about." There are many kinds of pain that may lead to suicide. Whether or not the pain is bearable may differ from person to person. What might be bearable to someone else, may not be bearable to you. The point at which the pain becomes unbearable depends on what kinds of coping resources you have. Individuals vary greatly in their capacity to withstand pain. When pain exceeds pain-coping resources, suicidal feelings are the result. Suicide is neither wrong nor right; it is not a defect of character; it is morally neutral. It is simply an imbalance of pain versus coping resources. You can survive suicidal feelings if you do either of two things: (1) **find a way to reduce your pain, or (2) find a way to increase your coping resources.** Both are possible. **Now I want to tell you five things to think about.**

**1** You need to hear that people *do* get through this -- even people who feel as badly as you are feeling now. Statistically, there is a very good chance that you are going to live. I hope that this information gives you some sense of hope.

**2** Give yourself some distance. Say to yourself, "I will wait 24 hours before I do anything." Or a week. Beat the thoughts and stay alive. Avoid alcohol and mindaltering

drugs; these will often feed negative thoughts that can make you feel sad or bad. Remove anything in the house that could make it real easy to suicide if the thoughts have their own way. Remember that feelings and actions are two different things - just because you *feel* like killing yourself, doesn't mean that you have to actually *do* it right this minute. Put some distance between your suicidal feelings and suicidal action. Even if it's just 24 hours. You have already done it for 5 minutes, just by reading this page. You can do it for another 5 minutes by continuing to read this page. Keep going, and realise that while you still feel suicidal, you are not, at this moment, acting on it. That is very encouraging to me, and I hope it is to you.

**3** People often turn to suicide because they are seeking relief from pain. Remember that relief is a *feeling*. And you have to be *alive* to feel it. You will not feel the relief you so desperately seek, if you are dead.

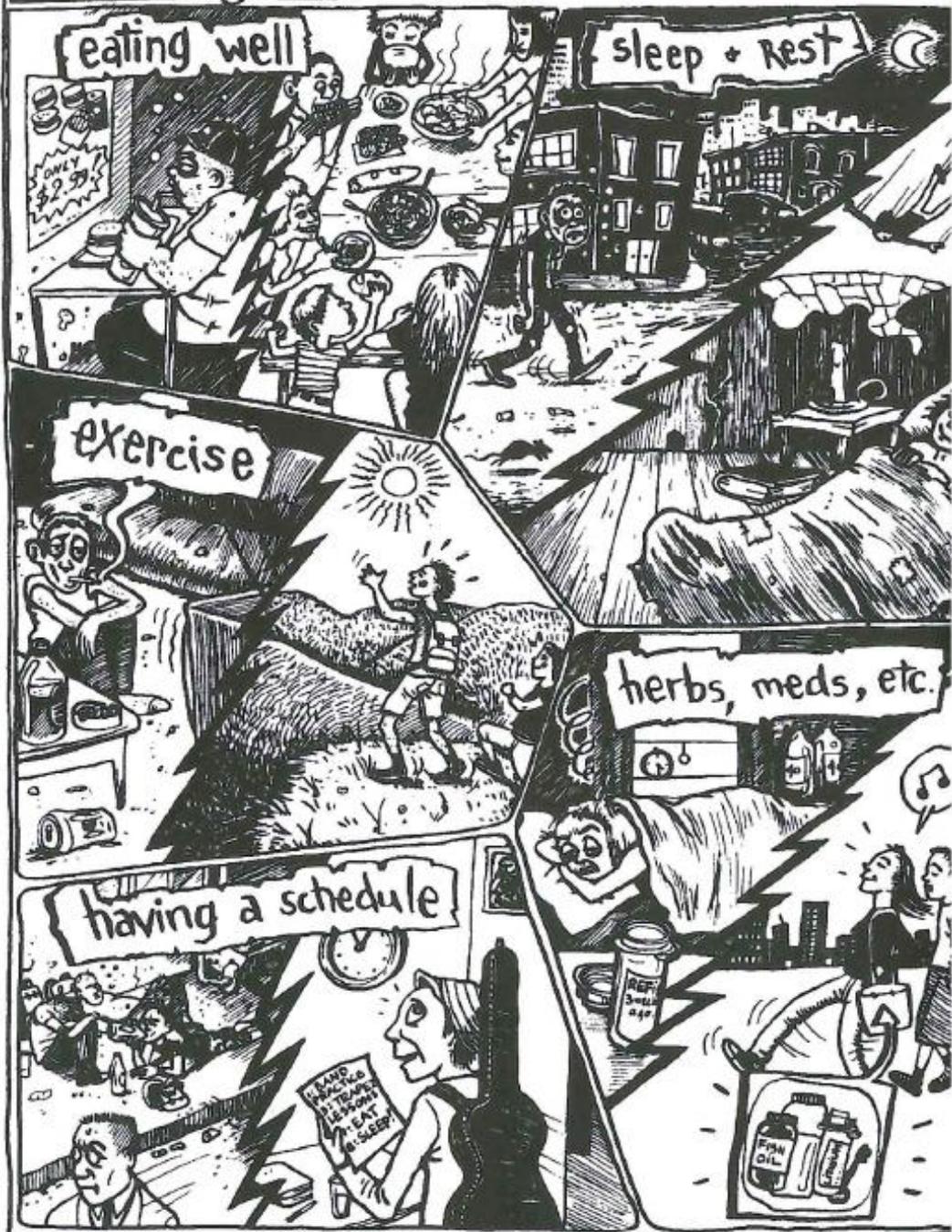
**4** Some people *will* react badly to your suicidal feelings, either because they are frightened, or angry; they may actually increase your pain instead of helping you, despite their intentions, by saying or doing thoughtless things. You have to understand that their bad reactions are about *their* fears, not about you. But there *are* people out there who can be with you in this horrible time, and will not judge you, or argue with you, or send you to a hospital, or try to talk you out of how badly you feel. They will simply care for you. Find one of them. Now. Use your 24 hours, or your week, and tell someone what's going on with you. It is okay to ask for help. Don't give yourself the additional burden of trying to deal with this alone. Just talking about how you got to where you are, releases an awful lot of the pressure, and it might be just the additional coping resource you need to regain your balance. Try these:

**Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467** free nation-wide support service for those at risk of suicide, their carers and those bereaved by suicide.

**GROW** is a community of persons working towards mental health through mutual help **Call them on 3394 4344**

**5** Suicidal feelings are, in and of themselves, traumatic. After they subside, you need to continue caring for yourself. Therapy is a really good idea. So are the various self-help groups available both in your community and on the Internet. Well, it's been a few minutes and you're still with me. I'm really glad. Since you have made it this far, you deserve a reward. I think you should reward yourself by giving yourself a gift. The gift you will give yourself is a coping resource. Remember, back up near the top of the page, I said that the idea is to make sure you have more coping resources than you have pain. So let's give you another coping resource, or two, or ten...! until they outnumber your sources of pain. Now, while this page may have given you some small relief, the best coping resource we can give you is another human being to talk with. If you find someone who wants to listen, and tell them how you are feeling and how you got to this point, you will have increased your coping resources by one. Hopefully the first person you choose won't be the last. There are a lot of people out there who really want to hear from you. It's time to start looking around for one of them.

# Taking Care of The Basics



RADICAL COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH  
BY AND FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR AND WITH DISPARATE AND RELATED MALICES

[www.theicarusproject.net](http://www.theicarusproject.net)



# SCRIPTS AND MEDICINE..

If you lose or had your MS Contin, Xanax or Valium stolen, or if the doctor has not prescribed enough medication until your next appointment you can call DDU on 3328 9890, tell them about your situation and the DDU will:

- Ask if a report has been made to the police (and request the report #).
- Contact the doctor who described the medication.
- Contact the chemist where the medication was given out.
- You can go to any doctor and have them contact DDU, who can give them temporary prescribing rights.

## What happens if something happens to one of your friends (Bad shot/collapsed etc)

If someone has collapsed, and they're still breathing: Place them in the recovery position; Turn them onto their front, with their head sideways on the side nearest to you; Bend their upper arm and their leg on the side nearest to you; Straighten the other arm and leg. Stay with them, keep an eye on their breathing and tell someone to call an ambulance; Check their breathing.



Call an ambulance (000); Don't put someone in the recovery position if you think they've got a head or neck injury.

**Q. What's the difference between a prisoner of war and a homeless person?**



**A. Under the Geneva Convention, a prisoner of war is entitled to food, shelter and medical care**

# POLICE POWERS

"Laws are iron chains for the poor but cobwebs for the rich"  
– August Spies, Haymarket martyr



Several key findings from 'No Vagrancy: The impact of the criminal justice system on people living in poverty in Queensland'

1. People experiencing poverty and homelessness endure extraordinarily high levels of police harassment and interference in their lives.
2. **People experiencing poverty and homelessness report being frequently searched, often unnecessarily and sometimes unlawfully.**
3. Many people experiencing poverty and homelessness report suffering physical brutality at the hands of police officers.
4. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians living on the streets are particularly vulnerable to police interference and harassment.**
5. The court system is often experienced as intimidating and confusing by people experiencing poverty and homelessness.
6. **Many people experiencing homelessness and poverty have been supervised by community corrections, and/or have been housed in a correctional facility.**
7. Some people experiencing poverty in Queensland report having insufficient income to provide themselves with the necessities of life, including food, shelter, clothing and access to amenities.
8. **Many of those experiencing homelessness and poverty report feeling looked down upon, discriminated against, and excluded by mainstream society.**
9. People experiencing homelessness and poverty are generally of the belief that they have no human rights, and/or that they are not capable of ensuring that the rights they do have are respected.

***Coupled with this was a survey of criminal justice and related professionals;*** some of the key findings were

1. **Many of those working within the criminal justice system alongside people experiencing poverty answered that police discriminate against people experiencing homelessness and poverty, particularly Indigenous Australians.**
2. Adverse outcomes are attributed by related professionals as a result of a lack of access to legal advice and advocacy.
3. **Many criminal justice and related professionals believe that the court system is inordinately intimidating and complex, and that people experiencing poverty are more likely to be adversely impacted by this than others.**
4. Agree that people experiencing poverty are more likely to have convictions recorded against them, and are more likely to end up in prison.
5. **Many of those who work with people experiencing poverty observe the extraordinary strength and resilience that their clients demonstrate despite the multiple layers of disadvantage they are faced with.**

**For the benefit of those reading, presented here are details of police powers extracted from the *Queensland Police Service First Response Handbook*.**

## **GENERAL QUESTIONING**

Police can require you to state your correct name and address; you can be arrested if you refuse. The police officer must supply their details. Police may not enter your dwelling unless they have your consent.

## **SEARCHING**

**Police may, without a warrant:**

- Stop and detain a person - Search the person and anything in the person's possession for anything relevant to the circumstances for which the person is detained

**IF the police suspect that:**

- The person possesses a weapon, something prohibited under a domestic violence order, an illegal drug, a graffiti instrument, tools primarily used for illegal activity or stolen or unlawfully obtained property - The person possesses an antique firearm and are is not fit and proper to be in possession of the firearm because of a domestic violence order/the person's mental and physical fitness or the person has been found guilty of an offence involving the weapon. The police may also seize anything for the above reasons.

**WHEN BEING SEARCHED:**

The police must: 1) Ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the way the person is searched causes minimal embarrassment to the person

2) Take reasonable care to protect the dignity of the person

3) Unless an immediate and more thorough search of a person is necessary, restrict ta search of the person in public to an examination of outer clothing; and

4) If a more thorough search of a person is necessary but doesnot have to be conducted immediately, conduct a more thorough search of the person out of public view, for example, in a room of a shop or, if a police station is nearby, in the station.

**If this is the case, the person conducting the search must be either:**

1) A police officer of the same sex as the person to be searched; or

2) If there is no police officer of the same sex available – someone of the same sex acting at the direction of a police officer; or

3) A doctor acting at the direction of a police officer

**Before taking a person to another place for a search, the police must consider:**

1) Whether the thing sought may be concealed on the person

2) Whether, for an effective search, the search should be conducted somewhere else; and

3) The need to protect the dignity of the person.

**If the police have obtained lawful power to search someone involving the removal of clothing – they may remove the clothes from:**

1) If the person is female – the upper OR lower part of the body; or

2) If the person is male – the lower part of the body.

**The police must tell the person:**

a) They will be required to remove clothing

b) Why it is necessary to remove the clothing;

c) Give the person the opportunity to remain partially clothed eg: covering the top half while the bottom clothing is removed. **The search must be conducted:**

1) In a way providing reasonable privacy for the person; and

2) As quickly as reasonably practical and the person must be allowed to dress as soon as the search is finished.

3) The officer must not make physical contact with the genital and anal areas of the person searched, but the officer may require the person to hold his/her arms in the air or to stand with legs apart and bend forward.

4) **If the person to be searched is a child, or a person with impaired capacity the search must be conducted in the presence of a support person unless**

1) The police suspect that delaying the search is likely to result in evidence being concealed or destroyed; or

2) An immediate search is necessary to protect the safety of a person.

- Police may search vehicles without a warrant.

- While in custody, the police may not use force likely to cause GBH to a person or the person's death..

- The police must provide you with their name, rank and station.

#### **NOISE COMPLAINTS:**

If a noise complaint has been received, police can enter your premises and can seize any property contributing to the noise

#### **MOVE ON POWERS**

**Officers may give a move-on direction to a person at or near a regulated place if they reasonably suspect the person's behaviour or presence is or has been:**

1) Causing anxiety to a person entering, at or leaving a place

2) Interfering with trade or business at the place (only if the occupier complains about the persons behaviour)

3) Disrupting an event, entertainment or gathering at the place.

**Move on powers also apply to prostitution in a regulated/prescribed place.**

A decision to use a Move on Power interferes with a person's right to free movement and should be able to withstand public scrutiny. Officers should consider the following before giving a move on power:

1) Any reason the person offers for being in or near the place

2) The nature of any complaint made about the person;

3) The nature of any anxiety the person is allegedly causing and whether this has any factual basis

4) The effect of the persons presence or behaviour on anyone else in or near the place.

#### ***When can police move you on?***

Firstly, you must be at or near a "prescribed place". This includes a shop, school, ATM, licensed premises, railway, shopping mall. NB. If you are soliciting for sex work, you can be moved on from **any public place** including a road or park.

Secondly, your behaviour or presence must be:

- Making people anxious who are coming or going from the place;
- Interfering with business by obstructing others from coming/going from the place;
- Disrupting an event, entertainment or gathering at the place;
- Offending or threatening people coming/going from the place.

Example: you are sitting in the doorway of a shop **OR** you are making a loud noise in the Queen St Mall **OR** you are disrupting a staged event, a police officer can direct you to “move on”. **Where must I move to?**

A police officer can direct you to leave the place for a set period of time (maximum 24 hours) **OR** move a certain distance in a stated direction for up to 24 hours. **What else must the police officer do?**

A police officer **must** give you: • reasons for why you are being moved-on; and • a reasonable opportunity to comply with the direction. You should ask the police officer for reasons if he/she doesn't explain why you are being moved-on. The direction **must be reasonable**. Parks and roads are **NOT** prescribed places. **King George Square, New Farm Park and Kurilpa Point Park** recently became “prescribed places” and move-on powers can be used in those areas.



# BEWARE

## ARMED GANGS ARE ROAMING THE HIGHWAYS AND HARRASSING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

THESE GANGS ARE HIGHLY ORGANISED, WELL ARMED AND POTENTIALLY VIOLENT.

- MAY APPEAR FRIENDLY BUT QUICK TO THREATEN AND INITATE FORCE.
- ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS AND OFTEN TIMES PARANOID.
- DEMEANOR SURLY AND HOSTILE OR AGGRESSIVELY FRIENDLY.

**CLOTHING:** Usually blue costume (Gang colours) adorned with patches and badges. Various headware. Accessories include guns, handcuffs, radios and large flashlights.

**ARMAMENTS:** Handguns, shotguns, tasers, pepper spray, bullet proof armour.

**VEHICLES:** Sports cars, four door sedans and vans, often painted black/blue and white (gang colours), with flashing red and blue sirens.

PROTECT YOURSELF. DO NOT PROVOKE THEM. WARN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

# LISTEN SOCIAL WORKER!

**Humanitarian work is self- defeating if it does not seek to alter the factors which produce its need.**

This is the paradox of social work: the official dedication to overcoming human misery, inequity and domination, and yet the failure to do more than achieve professional advancement.

**“Social workers play a crucial part in the management of systemic conflict by alleviating the more severe effects of the unequitable distribution of economic resources and political power that exists under capitalism. They are among the technicians of consent – from the industrial psychologist to the school teachers - who defuse the discontented and ‘train’ the potentially rebellious. These are the false-comforters, trained in the social engineering that turns the moral questioning and value crises of the exploited into mere occasions for perpetuating the values of the status quo and reinforcing capitalist stability and expansion.”**

In professional and popular forums, problems previously attributed to environmental, social, and personal factors-such as poverty, disintegration of family and community, gruelling work, and abusive or neglectful childhoods-have been increasingly attributed to brain dysfunctions stemming from biological defects.

It is well known that social work (along with psychiatry etc) has been used as one of society's tools for securing conformity and controlling deviant individuals and groups. Poverty, interpersonal violence, and disorganised and decaying communities are strongly correlated with emotional and behavioural disturbances, but the majority of social work practice depoliticises these issues, instead using the perfect amount of empty-liberal language but treating these issues as one would a biological disease. Is it any wonder now that we see Neuro-linguistic programming, deportment and life-coaching increasingly being used as legitimate social work interventions?

# UNDERSTANDING THE NGO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

What is the 'NGO industrial complex'?

The non-profit/NGO industrial complex is a system of relationships between:

**the State** (or local and federal governments)

**the Owning classes**

**Foundations**

and **non-profit/NGO social service & social justice organizations..**

..that results in the surveillance, control, derailment, and everyday management of political movements. The state uses non-profits to:

- Allow corporations to mask their exploitative and colonial work practices through "philanthropic" work;
- Sink movements as ideologies from the state, non-profits and NGOs are handed out along with funding to shape their work.
- Monitor and control social justice movements;
- Divert public monies into private hands through foundations;
- Manage and control dissent in order to make the world safe for capitalism;
- Redirect activist energies into career-based modes of organizing instead of mass-based organizing capable of actually transforming society;
- Encourage social movements to model themselves after corporate-capitalist structures rather than to challenge them

The professionalisation and institutionalization of social action has long been a contested issue in grassroots social movements and communities of resistance. Many people active in social justice movements (mainstream or otherwise) align relatively uncritically with the pronouncements issued by neutral-seeming human rights NGOs. These organisations present themselves as "independent", "apolitical", just conveying value-free information to the public.

We adopt the perspectives of the positions we hold.

NGOs are now the favoured institutional form through which every social problem is to be addressed, be it domestic violence, ecological devastation, homelessness, food security or the aftermath of war, noted as the “ideal vehicles for tackling social costs” by policy makers associated with structural adjustment program (IMF/World Bank). There are now hundreds of thousands of NGOs operating worldwide, funded by governments, international financial institutions, various foundations, well-intentioned individuals, and increasingly, corporations.

Through this three-tier structure, governments and corporations in rich countries can extend their influence all the way down to the grassroots level with unprecedented speed and flexibility. Foundations provide tax shelters for wealthy families and thereby take away tax income that could be used for social programs and entitlements...and then the foundations dole out little bits of money for non-profits to replace the services that the government no longer funds. Rich countries send aid to places suffering from their military interventions or economic hyper-exploitation, and NGOs follow along. Providing services until displacement goals are met. As Arundhati Roy once put it, *"They're what botanists would call an indicator species. The greater the devastation caused by neoliberalism/imperialism, the greater the outbreak of NGOs."*

**“NGOs are meticulously shaping global society by utilizing and building upon strategic psychological marketing, soft power, technology and social media – shaping public consensus, thus acceptance, for the illusory “green economy”, “humanitarian” wars, and a novel sonata of 21st century colonialism. As we are now facing unprecedented challenges in the world, society must be aware of, be able to critically analyse, and ultimately reject the new onslaught of carefully orchestrated de-politicisation, domestication of populace, propaganda and misinformation that is being perpetrated and perpetuated by the corporate elite and the current power structures that support their agenda. The non-profit industrial complex must be understood as a mainspring and the instrument of power, a stable support of imperialist domination”**

# ORDER or JUSTICE?



Social justice groups and organisations have become limited as they've been incorporated into the non-profit model. We as people committed to social-change are no longer accountable to our communities, constituents or members because we don't necessarily depend on them for our existence. Instead, we've become primarily accountable to public and private

foundations as we try to prove to them that we are still relevant and efficient and thus worthy of continued funding. In theory, foundation funding provides us with the ability to do the work—it is supposed to facilitate what we do. But funding also shapes and dictates our work. Funding bodies are ultimately interested in the packaging and production of success stories, measurable outcomes, and the use of infrastructure and capacity-building systems.

Not only does this encourage organisations to focus solely on building and funding their own work, it can create uncomfortable and competitive relationships between groups most alike—chipping away at any semblance of a movement-building culture. Over time, funding trends actually come to influence our work, priorities, and direction as we struggle to remain competitive and funded. For many, this has shifted the focus from strategies for radical change to charts and tables that demonstrate how successfully the work has satisfied foundation-determined benchmarks. Fragmenting the world into 'issues' and 'projects', the language of 'empowerment' corresponds to an apolitical process that reflects the donor's desire to steer NGOs clear of stances that might be controversial with their patrons.

One of the scariest manifestations of current day Capitalism is the system's ability to co-opt experiences, practices and even culture, and to then recreate and repackage them within a careerist, profit-driven and competitive logic. In many cases, funding bodies and the non-profit culture often expect groups to achieve a campaign goal in a relatively short period of time, and are not interested in funding the much slower work of base-building that takes years and years to do. Consequently, non-profits become short-term goal oriented, even if they did not begin that way. Many also become focused on meaningless "smoke and mirrors" work in which you do something that looks good for a photo-op but has no real people power behind it.

If non-profit jobs are the only spaces where our communities are engaged in fighting for social justice and creating alternatives to oppressive systems, then we will never be able to engage in transformative social change. What are the implications for a social justice movement in which power and resources are being transferred based on one's ability to develop a relationship with the right people in power?

**ALLEVIATION IS IN OPPOSITION TO LIBERATION  
CHARITY IS IN OPPOSITION TO SOLIDARITY**



# SURVIVING THE SOCIAL WORK BLUES

Very rarely do support workers get avenues to connect with one another, to discuss our conditions and share our experiences across the sector. While the complicity of NGOs with the nefarious agendas of funders seems unavoidable, perhaps there's something to be gained by engaging more directly with the exceptions, the margins and the edge cases. There are many frontline workers who see the big picture and fight hard for small but important shifts in the organisations they work for and for the people they work with, in an invisible and mostly thankless role.

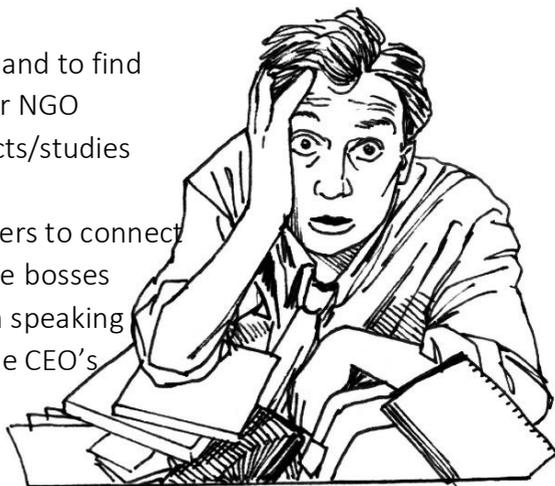
We say the starting point as support workers who share a critique of the 'NGO-Industrial-Complex' is to overcome the barriers between us and open up avenues where we can raise questions, support each other and share ideas/resources, where we can discuss the political dimension of the work we do and the impact of broader political trends on the people we work with. If you are interested in keeping in the loop with a network of grassroots / radical support workers, please get in contact through

<https://actionnetwork.org/groups/support-workers-forum>

or contact [bsn@riseup.net](mailto:bsn@riseup.net)

## SURVIVING THE NGO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

- Use the photocopier for all your needs and let all the radicals in your area know
- Use your time to research projects and to find scandalous information about your NGO
- Carry out your own research projects/studies
- Raid the office supplies cupboard
- Start a facebook group for co-workers to connect and have discussions away from the bosses
- Give marginalised voices a place on speaking panels instead of constantly getting the CEO's of NGO's to speak at radical events.



○ There are often two kinds of worker; the cynics who see themselves as cogs in the global-work-machine and the idealist who thinks they're saving the world in their social work role. Challenge both of these and the rites of passage where it's accepted to instill a healthy drastic reduction of expectations.

○ Link up with workers across the industry, find each other and have these conversations! Sign up the Support Workers Network

○ Bring up politics in meetings and conversations!

### **ORGANISATIONS:**

○ Refuse to include corporations and big businesses in your campaign particularly when they do this to self-promote. Misery is not a commodity. Misery is not for sale.

○ In your campaigns find ways to contextualize homelessness as an issue of systemic inequality (of capitalism, settler colonialism, ableism, misogyny, and racism).

○ However you choose to raise awareness and funds, always remember to take great care to not victimize marginalized communities. Find resilient voices that resist the social circumstances they were forced to inhabit; be deeply aware of how your campaign may intentionally or unintentionally disempower and remove agency from those it aims at empowering.

○ "Help the homeless" by opting not for "Band Aid" campaigns but for projects that fight for radical social change and undermine the very systems that create disposable and displaced people.



# Housing Struggle and Direct action Casework

The reason that reason gets us nowhere is that politics is not based on good arguments but on power relations. Our society is not a debating chamber, but a power struggle between different groups and classes with competing and opposing interests. We want a stable home; they want an asset that will make them lots of money. They won't be swayed by argument, because from such a position of privilege & power (as a class) all arguments can be safely ignored.

The legacy of rights and social gains which we enjoy today weren't granted as gifts from above or because we asked nicely through reports and funding proposals— they were won and forced upon the system through popular struggle and have to be maintained through struggle. Now that we're weak – the State is able to take away things we've won in the past: The tenants' rights sector, rent caps, public services, the right to strike, abortion rights, schools, the health of our communities and environment. This goes way beyond housing – If we don't get organised we basically give those in power a blank cheque to do as they wish.

The essence of unionism in general is about *association* – ie communities, neighbourhoods, tenants and workers getting together directly to form organisations to defend and extend their interests. Trade Unions today, much like the official 'Tenants Union' on the other hand are purely representational – operating as service orientated lobby groups and NGO's do, over and above the people, with all the rotten fruits of bureaucracy, parliamentary politics and hierarchy, far removed from the collective self-organisation and real empowerment of tenants/workers. It's good to



have people who can remind us of the few “rights” we have (or don’t have), lobby and help us navigate the confusing world of the Law, but it’s not unionism and it

encourages people to approach these issues as individuals through the disempowering legal system – nearly always weighted in favour of those in power. We need to re-learn basic nuts and bolts organising and begin to form the types of unionism that will really serve to express and encourage solidarity between the homeless, tenants and workers.

***Check out these organisations to stay in the***

***loop with things happening in your area. See our website for other guides on prison/squatting/how to start organising in your workplace and community.***



# Don't be bullied by your job agent!

## **As a Newstart recipient, you have rights.**

Employment agencies avoid informing you of your rights so they can pressure you to do what **makes them money.**

### **FORCED ONTO WORK FOR THE DOLE?**

If you do not want to do Work for the Dole, inform your job agent that you would prefer to do another "approved activity", such as voluntary work, part-time study, or training. If you earn an income that reduces your Newstart payment by any amount, by law you are ineligible for Work for the Dole during that pay period.

### **THREATENED WITH A PENALTY?**

Penalties can only be applied in very specific situations. Ask your job agent to provide official government documentation justifying any penalty. **Call the AUWU for more advice.**

### **PRESSURED TO SIGN A JOB PLAN?**

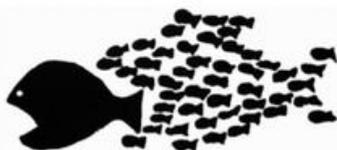
Under the law, you are not required to sign your job plan immediately. You can only be penalized after your second refusal to sign. This gives you the right to take your plan home and look it over carefully.

### **WANT TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT PROVIDERS?**

The **Australian Unemployed Workers' Union** is here to help. Call our national advocacy hotline on **(03) 8394 5266** today.

**Note:** To lodge an official complaint about your provider, call the Department of Employment on **1800 805 260.**





**TROUBLE WITH YOUR BOSS?  
OR LANDLORD?**

unpaid wages?



bond stolen?



**DON'T FIGHT  
ALONE!**

GET WHAT'S YOURS.



07 4422 0238

bsn@riseup.net

brisbanesolidarity.net



SUPPORT GRASSROOTS RESISTANCE



# WARRIORS OF THE ABORIGINAL RESISTANCE



**unite**

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@WARCOLLECTIVE



# *Crisis: Ipswich-Brisbane*



"The aim of this book is to provide some practical direction to those who are homeless or are at risk of falling into homelessness; to make hard to find information available for those who might want to help someone in crisis but don't know how, to spark discussion amongst support-workers across the industry - and; to demonstrate to people from all walks of life that homelessness isn't a natural or a minor issue."

