Inner City Sydney
Registry Week
2015 Report

Homelessness NSW
Registry Week 2015 Working Group members:

- City of Sydney
- Homelessness NSW
- Mercy Foundation
- Neami National
- The Haymarket Foundation
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Homelessness NSW was very pleased to be part of the Working Group that co-ordinated Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 which included the City of Sydney, the Haymarket Foundation, NEAMI and the Mercy Foundation. The Working Group would like to extend thanks to the many volunteers, specialist homelessness services and people experiencing homelessness that participated in Registry Week 2015.

The dedication required by volunteers and services working together on weekends and in the early morning hours before then going on to their ‘day’ jobs was essential to the success of Registry Week. Registry Week was also highly reliant on the willingness of people living on the street and in services to once again tell their story. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of people and services who want to see homelessness ended in the inner city.

And it is in this collaborative and committed spirit that the Working Group is pleased to present the information gathered from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 surveys. The intention in gathering this information was to not only assist individual people experiencing homelessness surveyed by helping ensure that they access appropriate housing and support but also to assist the community and services to better understand the causes and situation of people experiencing homelessness so that homelessness can be prevented and addressed at a systemic level.

We hope that the information provided in this report can inform Government, services, researchers, the community and the media to work together to more effectively prevent and address homelessness in Inner City Sydney.

We also hope that the information provided inspires other communities to consider implementing a similar approach to better understand the housing and support needs of people experiencing homelessness in their area.

The Working Group, and Homelessness NSW in particular, is available to provide assistance to further interrogate the data provided in the report as well as provide support and advice to those who may be interested in implementing a similar approach in their community.

On behalf of the Working Group I would like to specifically acknowledge the hard work of Andrew Deuchar (City of Sydney), Digby Hughes (Homelessness NSW) and Fiona Murray (The Haymarket Foundation) in coordinating and running Registry Week. Thank you also to Janelle Kwong from Micah Projects and Chris Hartley (Homelessness NSW) for their hard work in coordinating and undertaking the data analysis and to the many others who were involved in making the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 a success.
Executive Summary

The Inner City Sydney Registry Week was conducted from 30 November – 2 December 2015. It involved surveying 516 people experiencing homelessness who were either rough sleeping or in crisis accommodation, boarding houses or Temporary Accommodation. Registry Week was co-ordinated by the City of Sydney, Homelessness NSW, the Mercy Foundation, the Haymarket Foundation and NEAMI and involved the commitment of over 60 community volunteers, inner city Specialist Homelessness Services, DVNSW and Yfoundations and the Department of Family and Community Services.

The survey was conducted using the Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) – an internationally recognised tool designed by Community Solutions and OrgCode Consulting Inc that has been used internationally (Canada and the United States) and in Brisbane, Perth and Hobart. The survey provides details of the housing, health and support needs of people experiencing homelessness and was previously conducted in Sydney in 2010. The 2016 survey is the largest survey of people experiencing homelessness to be undertaken in Australia to date. It is important to note that the survey collects information from people about their experiences of homelessness and their perspective of these experiences. This provides a rich source of information that other homelessness data collection may not provide, however, it should also be considered in conjunction with other data sources.

This report analyses the data from Registry Week 2015 and provides detail in a number of distinct homelessness categories - youth, females, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people over the age of 55 and veterans from the defence forces.

Of the 516 participants 60% (n=308) of people were currently sleeping rough, 23% (n=119) were currently residing in a Temporary or Crisis Accommodation Service, and 17% stated they were staying with friends and family or in a boarding house (n=89). In total people who participated in the Registry had 4097 interactions with the crisis service system. Only eight people who were surveyed in 2010 were again surveyed in 2015.

Of the 516 people surveyed 13% (n=70) of people just require housing they can afford with minimal if any support to be able to exit homelessness, 43% (n=262) need short term support with housing they can afford; and 36% (n= 184) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.
Further information on the overall survey results is provided in Figure A below.
Conducting Registry Week 2015

Registry Week was conducted from Monday 30 November until Wednesday 2 December 2015. It involved using an internationally recognised methodology to compile a comprehensive register that assists in identifying the most appropriate support and housing intervention for a homeless individual.

The Inner City Sydney Registry Week gathered responses from 516 people experiencing homelessness across the City of Sydney. This included 330 people sleeping rough and 186 people staying in or accessing services. The Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 had the highest numbers of participants ever in Australia. Registry Weeks have been previously conducted in Perth, Brisbane and Hobart and across Canada and the United States of America.

The project was coordinated by a working group made up of Homelessness NSW, The Mercy Foundation, the City of Sydney, The Haymarket Foundation and Neami National. The objective of the register is to eliminate the anonymity of people experiencing homelessness and create a measurable census to target housing and other support services to significantly reduce and work towards ending homelessness in inner Sydney.

Detailed information about each participant’s health status and housing needs was gathered by approximately 65 volunteers made up of sector workers and community members. Information collected will be used to design an individual pathway for each person to exit homelessness. The de-identified data is being publicly shared in this report to increase understanding and generate opportunities to work together to co-deliver solutions to end homelessness in Sydney.

Registry week was previously conducted in Inner City Sydney in 2010, 262 homeless people were surveyed, 53% of whom were identified as vulnerable.

Methodology

Information was collected using a survey tool called the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) designed by Community Solutions and OrgCode Consulting Inc. The VI-SPDAT is a pre-screening, or triage tool that is designed to be used by all providers within a community to assess the health and social needs of homeless persons and match them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available. The Methodology was developed in America by Community Solutions for the 100k homes campaign. The Working Group would like to acknowledge Community Solutions for sharing their time and expertise on this project. The survey used as part of the Registry Week is provided as Appendix A.

Volunteers were recruited from the community and homelessness sector. They were trained and supported by team leaders from specialist homelessness, Health and Government services from Inner Sydney. Target areas were identified to ensure as many people as possible were surveyed; these included streets, parks, pathways and other hotspots, as well as crisis services, drop in services and the NSW Family and Community Services Housing Office.
The survey is a self-reporting tool and collects information from homeless people about their experiences and their perspective of these experiences. The questions have been rigorously designed and tested to ask for information in a non-judgemental and as non-invasively as possible. Participants were able to choose whether or not they wished to answer individual questions.

The self-reporting approach provides a rich source of information that other homelessness data collection may not provide, however, it should also be considered in conjunction with other data sources.

**Ethical Considerations**

To ensure that participants were treated with the utmost dignity and respect, informed consent was gained from all those that chose to participate. It was explained to each participant what kind of information was being collected, how it will be collected, what it will be used for, and how it will be stored. Because informed consent cannot be obtained from individuals under 16 years or age, surveys were not conducted with under 16 year olds and a Child Protection procedure was followed. An easy English factsheet for how the personal information will be used and stored was also made available to the participants. This fact sheet also included details on how information can be accessed, changed or destroyed at the participant's convenience. The factsheet used as part of the Registry Week is provided at Appendix B.

Individuals and families that chose to participate were compensated for their time with a small cash contribution. It was explained to participants they were compensated for their time and not their information and they were advised of the option to refuse any or all of the questions asked.

The information presented in this report is de-identified and no information regarding the current location of participants is discussed. These measures were implemented to ensure the integrity of Inner City Sydney Registry Week and to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of participants.
1. Homeless in Sydney LGA

The following data represents the responses of 516 people experiencing homelessness in Sydney during the period of 30 November - 2 December 2015.

1.1 Where were people sleeping?

Data from the Registry indicates of the 516 people experiencing homelessness in Sydney the average period of homelessness is 5.3 years.

A large majority of people experiencing homelessness were currently rough sleeping (60% n=308), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Temporary or Crisis Accommodation Service (23% n=119) or with friends and family or in a boarding house (17% n=89).

Significantly only 8 participants surveyed in 2015 were also surveyed in 2010, indicating that while services are working effectively to house and support people once they become homeless, much reform is required to ensure other people do not become homeless and take their place.

In total people who participated in the Registry had 4097 interactions with the crisis service system over the past 6 months.

1.2 Where did people live before becoming homeless?

Most participants in the Registry prior to becoming homeless were from Inner Sydney (32% n=163), with other participants previously residing in Metropolitan or Greater Sydney (21% n=106) or elsewhere in NSW (22% n=112) or elsewhere in Australia outside of NSW (n=63).

Significantly close to 10 per cent of those who participated resided outside of Australia prior to becoming homeless (10% n=51).
1.3 Gender, age, background and cultural identity

Participants in the Registry were predominately male (82% n=422), with 17% females (n=87) and 1% (n=5) identifying as transgender. Of the participants who detailed their sexuality, 88% (n=455 identified as straight), 4% as gay or lesbian (n=19) and 5% as bi-sexual (n=19).

The average age of participants was 42 years old. There were 35 respondents under the age of 25, of those the average age was 22 years old (see more under Youth Homelessness page 20).

Data from the Registry reveals a large proportion of participants identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people (17% n=38).

Of those who identified as non-Australian (27% n=139), the largest groups were from New Zealand (10% n=53) and from European backgrounds (5% n=25).

Also of note is that 8% (n=42) of respondents indicated that they have previously been members of the Australian Defence Force, indicating a need for greater discharge support for veterans.

![Figure 1.3 Gender of participants](image1)

![Figure 1.4 Age of Participants](image2)
1.4 Triaging

The methodology used during Registry Week generates a numerical score for each individual which, assists services with triaging the most suitable form of intervention and housing options. The higher the individuals score the greater their acuity warranting more intensive supports:

- A score of between 0-4 indicates that an individual requires housing with minimal if any support, this refers to people in poverty who can’t afford to access housing without initial support;
- Between 5-9 indicates that housing and short term support, for example 12 months case management is required. This refers to people who require support to overcome multiple barriers to access housing; and
- A score of 10 or more indicates that the respondent requires housing and long term/permanent support. This refers to people who will need intensive support to access housing and sustain a tenancy.

The Registry Week data shows that of the 516 people surveyed (Figure 1.3):

- 14% (n=70) of people just require housing they can afford with minimal if any support to be able to exit homelessness;
- 51% (n= 262) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 35% (n= 184) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

When broken down into categories of where people are currently residing, over 86% (n =79) of respondents in emergency accommodation require only housing they can afford or housing with short term assistance. In contrast, 43% (n=122) of people who are currently rough sleeping require affordable housing with long term support.

1.5 Income

The majority of participants in the Registry relied on government assistance for income, with 35% receiving a Disability Support Pension of $782 per fortnight (n=180) and 47% on another government payment of $520 per fortnight (n=254) and 13% receiving no income at all.
1.6 Health

Participants identified having many and multiple interactions with the NSW health system. In total participants identified over the past 6 months, 376 periods of hospitalisation, 1007 visits to the accident and emergency department and 527 trips taken in an ambulance.

Data from the Registry also highlights the ongoing mental health and substance abuse issues faced by people experiencing homelessness. Of the participants:

**Physical health**
- 25% reported experiencing Asthma (n=129)
- 9% reported Diabetes (n=49)
- 27% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=138)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=33)
- 12% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=58)
- 9% reported of having cancer (n=42)
- 3% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=15)
- 15% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=74)
- 16% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=82)
- 53% identified having dental problems (n=276)

**Drug and alcohol use**
- 36% reported using intravenous drugs (n=185)
- 37% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=193)
- 72% reported substance abuse (n=372)

**Mental health and disability**
- 53% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=276)
- 26% reported a diagnosis of a learning development or developmental disability (n=130)
- 29% reported having a brain injury (n=149)
- 20% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=101)

**Of people with a mental illness**
- 64% have both substance abuse and mental health issues (n=330)
- 47% report experiencing Tri-morbidity meaning a person is mentally ill plus abusing substances and also has a significant medical problem (n=237)

**Trauma**

Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 49% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse prior to become homeless. Another 34% (n=121) identified having self-harm while being homeless.

Significantly 34% (n=121) of participants reported a history of being in foster care.
1.7 Interaction with the justice system

Participants reported high levels of interaction with the criminal justice system. Over 53% of respondents indicated that they had been in prison (n=272), 65% that they had been arrested (n=335) and over 44% indicating that they had been a victim of violence while homeless.

Significantly, survey respondents reported over 9,200 interactions with police in the last six months.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Data from the Registry reveals a large proportion of participants identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (17% n=86).

2.1 Where were people sleeping?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the Registry were sleeping rough (64% n=54) or were in crisis accommodation (12% n=11) or staying with friends or family (11% n=8). A number of participants (5% n=4) identified ‘jail’ as being the location they slept most frequently.

Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 7.01 years.

In total, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry had 984 interactions with the crisis service system.

2.2 Gender, age, background

A small majority of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were male (64% n=54), with females making up 34% (n=30) with less than 5 transgender and intersex identifying people.

Of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry, 74 were over the age of 25 and 12 were under 25.
2.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated:

- 6% (n=5) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 40% (n=35) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 54% (n=46) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

![Figure 2.3 Triaging ATSI participants]

2.4 Income

The majority of participants in the Registry relied on governance assistance for income, with 50% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=37) and 30% on another government payment of (n=22) with 10% identifying they begging as a source of income (n=7). (Figure 1.6).

2.5 Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the Registry had considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 430 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 243 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance (or 2.8 trips per person).

Participants identified having many and multiple ongoing health issues including:

**Physical Health**

- 34% reported experiencing Asthma (n=29)
- 12% reported Diabetes (n=10)
- 42% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=36)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=6)
- 10% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=8)
- 9% reported of having cancer (n=7)
- 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=5)
- 14% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=12)
- 19% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=16)
- 61% identified having dental problems (n=52)
Drugs and Alcohol

- 54% reported using intravenous drugs (n=46)
- 54% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=46)
- 77% reported substance abuse (n=65)

Mental Health and Disability

- 42% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=36)
- 37% reported a diagnosis of a learning development or developmental disability (n=31)
- 61% reported having a brain injury (n=52)
- 23% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=19)

Trauma

Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 55% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse prior to become homeless (n=47). Another 38% (n=32) identified having self-harmed while being homeless.

A large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 25 indicated that they had left school prior to year 10 (41% n=30), while 30% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (n=28) indicated that they been in foster or institutional care as a child.

2.6 Interaction with the justice system

Participants reported high levels of interaction with the criminal justice system. Over 71% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people respondents indicated that they had been in prison (n=61), 83% that they had been arrested (n=71) and over 49% indicating that they had been a victim of violence while homeless (n=42).

Significantly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people survey respondents reported over 2,500 interactions with Police in the last six months.
3. Females experiencing homelessness

In total 87 females experiencing homelessness participated in Registry Week.

3.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most females who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently sleeping rough (47% n=40), with a large number of females staying in a Crisis Accommodation Service (37% n=32) or with friends and family (10% n=9).

In total, females experiencing homelessness identified 1204 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for females was 5.12 years.

3.2 Age, background and cultural identity

Of the females who experienced homelessness who participated, 73 were over the age of 25 (84%) of which 8 were aged over 55 (9%). Fourteen females were under the age of 25 (16%) and the average age of females participants was 39 years.

Of the female participants who detailed their sexuality, 71 identified as straight (82%), 10 as bi-sexual (12%) and 5 as lesbian (5%). Thirty females identified as being Aboriginal (35%).

3.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the females who participated in the Registry:

- 11% (n=10) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 52% (n=45) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 37% (n=32) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.
3.4 Income

The majority of females relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 42% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=36) and 32% on an unemployment benefit (n=28). A number of females also relied on begging (9% n=8), employment (6% n=5) and sex work (3% n=less than 5) for income.

3.5 Health

Females who participated in the Registry had considerable interactions with the health system including, a total of 376 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 219 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance (or 2.5 trips per person).

They also identified a multiple of health issues including:

**Physical Health**

- 36% reported experiencing Asthma (n=31)
- 12% reported Diabetes (n=10)
- 22% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=19)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)
• 10% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=7) and 9% of another cancer (n=9)

• 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=less than 5)

• 14% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=11)

• 19% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=22)

• 61% identified having dental problems (n=53)

**Drugs and Alcohol**

• 13% reported using intravenous drugs (n=23)

• 34% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=29)

• 53% reported substance abuse (n=46)

**Mental health and Disability**

• 52% reported a mental health issue (n=45)

• 23% reported having a brain injury (n=20)

• 22% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=19)

• 23% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=18)

**Trauma**

A number of participants (45% n=39) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness. In addition, 36% (n=31) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

Also of note is that 19 survey respondents or 22% of participants reported a history of being in foster care or institutional care.

**3.6 Interaction with the justice system**

Females experiencing homelessness had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Fifty-one percent of the young people who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=44), 13% had spent time in youth detention (n=11) and 37% had been incarcerated in prison (n=32).

In total, the females who participated in the Registry had 1029 interactions with the police over the past 6 months (an average of 12 interactions per person).
4. Youth Homelessness

In total 35 people under the age of 25 participated in Registry Week.

4.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most of the young people experiencing homelessness who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently rough sleeping (74% n=26), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Crisis Accommodation Service (25% n=9) or with friends and family (1% n= less than 5).

Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness for young people under the age of 25 is 2.1 years.

In total, young people experiencing homelessness identified 272 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

4.2 Where did people live before becoming homeless?

Most participants in the Registry prior to becoming homeless were from Inner Sydney (38% n=13), with other participants previously residing in Metropolitan or Greater Sydney (28% n=10) or elsewhere in NSW (23% n=8) or elsewhere in Australia outside of NSW (n= less than 5).
4.3 Gender, age, background and cultural identity

Of the participants who detailed their sexuality, 86% identified as straight (n=30) and less than 5 people identified as gay or lesbian or as bi-sexual. In regards to gender, 58% of respondents were male (n=20) male and 42% females (n=15).

The average age of participants under the age of 25 was 22 years old. 12 of young people under the age of 25 identified as being Aboriginal (34%).

4.4 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the young people over the age of 25:

- 11% (n=4) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 60% (n=21) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 29% (n=10) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.

4.5 Income

The majority of young people relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 26% receiving an unemployment benefit (n=9), 23% receiving youth allowance (n=8) and 17% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=6). A large group of the young people who participated also relied on begging as a form on income (20% n=7).
4.6 Health

Young people who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 37 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 38 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance.

The young people who participated in the Registry identified a multiple of health issues including:

**Physical Health**
- 34% reported experiencing Asthma (n=12)
- 9% reported Diabetes (n= less than 5)
- 14% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=5)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)
- No young person indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema and
- 6% of another cancer (n= less than 5)
- 6% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n= less than 5)
- 6% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n= less than 5)
- 35% identified having dental problems (n=12)
- 12% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n= less than 5)
- No young person reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia

**Drugs and Alcohol**
- 11% reported using intravenous drugs (n= less than 5)
- 34% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=12)
- 11% reported having a brain injury (n= less than 5)
- 54% reported substance abuse (n=19)

**Mental health and Disability**
- 26% reported a mental health issue (n=9)
- 42% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=15)

**Trauma**
Registry data also reveals the role of trauma in causing and sustaining homelessness. Of participants, 45% of people reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse which they identify as causing their homelessness (n=16). Also of note is that 11 survey respondents or 32% of participants reported a history of being in foster care or institutional care.
- In addition, 32% (n=11) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

4.7 Interaction with the justice system

Young people under the age of 25 had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Fifty-four percent of the young people who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=19), 34% had spent time in youth detention (n=12) and 17% had been incarcerated in prison (n=6). A number of participants (34% n=12) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

In total, young people who participated in the Registry had 1228 interactions with the police over the past 6 months (an average of 36 interactions per young person).
5. People aged 55 and over

In total 75 people aged 55 and over participated in Registry Week.

5.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most of the people aged 55 and over experiencing homelessness who participated in Inner Sydney Registry Week were currently sleeping rough (70% n=52), with other participants indicating they were currently residing in a Crisis Accommodation Service (18% n=13), in temporary accommodation (4% n= less than 5) or with friends and family (10% n=7).

Data from the Registry indicates that the average period of homelessness aged 55 and over was 5.3 years.

In total, over the age of 55 experiencing homeless identified 360 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

5.2 Gender, background and cultural identity

Of people aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry, 90% were male (n=67) and 10% females (n= 8).

The average age of participants aged 55 and over was 62 years old. A small number (4% n= less than 5) of people aged 55 and over identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

5.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the people aged 55 and over:

- 25% (n=19) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 60% (n=45 need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 15% (n=11) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.
5.4 Income

The majority of people over the age of 55 relied on government assistance as their primary source of income, with 26% receiving an unemployment benefit (n=19), 12% receiving the age pension (n=9) and 44% receiving a Disability Support Pension (n=33). Eight percent of the people who participated also relied on begging as a form of income (n=6) with 3 people receiving no income at all.

5.5 Health

People aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry identified a multiple of health issues including:

**Physical Health**
- 18% reported experiencing Asthma (n=13)
- 18% reported Diabetes (n=13)
- 11% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=8)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=5)
- 32% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=24)
- 12% of another cancer (n=9)
- No person aged 55 and over reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS
- 11% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=8)
- 44% identified having dental problems (n=33)
- 13% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=10)

**Drugs and Alcohol**
- 13% reported using intravenous drugs (n=10)
- 27% report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=20)
- 20% reported having a brain injury (n=15)
- 43% reported substance abuse (n=32)

**Mental health and Disability**
- 37% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=27)
- 11% reporting being diagnosed with a learning or development disability (n=8)
- 16% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=12);

People aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 87 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 54 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance.

In addition, 8% (n=6) have attempted to harm themselves in the last year.

5.6 Interaction with the justice system

People aged 55 and over had also had numerous interactions with police and the court system.

Forty-eight percent of people aged 55 and over who participated in the Registry had been arrested (n=36) and 47% had been incarcerated in prison (n=35). A number of participants 31% (n=23) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

In total, people aged 55 and over had 658 interactions with the police over the past 6 months.
6. Veterans of the Australian Defence Force

In total, 8% (n=42) of participants in the Registry indicated that they have previously been members of the Australian Defence Force.

6.1 Where were people sleeping?

Most veterans were currently sleeping rough (61% n=25) or were in crisis accommodation (20% n=8).

![Figure 6.1 Where are veterans currently sleeping?](image)

The average length of homelessness for participants who identified as a veteran was 7.31 years.

In total, over veterans identified 371 interactions with a crisis service in the past 6 months.

6.2 Gender, background and cultural identity

A large majority of these veterans were male (98% n=41) with 40 being over the age of 25 and 2 being under 25, with an average age of 48 years old. A number (4% n=7) veterans identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

6.3 Triaging

Using the Registry Week numerical score, of the people who identified as veterans:

- 2% (n=less than 5) just required housing to be able to exit homelessness;
- 48% (n=21) need short term support with housing they can afford; and
- 50% (n=20) require housing with intensive support, in some cases for the duration of their lives.
6.4 Income
Most veterans indicated that their primary source of income was from government assistance, Disability Support Pension 45% (n=19) or an unemployment benefit 24 % (n=10). Significantly, no veterans indicated receiving income support through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

6.5 Health
Veterans who participated in the Registry has considerable interactions with the health system including, with a total of 89 trips to Accident and Emergencies at the hospital and 59 total trips to the hospital in an ambulance. Veterans also identified a multiple of health issues including:

Physical Health
- 24% reported experiencing Asthma (n=10)
- 15% reported Diabetes (n=6)
- 29% reported contracting Hepatitis C (n=12)
- 7% reported Kidney disease (n=less than 5)
- 15% indicated a diagnosis of Emphysema (n=6)
- 10% of another cancer (n=less than 5)
- 5% reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (n=less than 5)
- 12% reported a Liver disease or Cirrhosis (n=5)
- 12% reported Heart disease or Arrhythmia (n=5)
- 78% identified having dental problems (n=33)

Drug and Alcohol
- 33% had used injection drugs in the past 6 months (n=14)
- 43 % report using alcohol daily for 30 days straight (n=18)
- 60% reporting substance abuse (n=25);

Mental Health and Disability
- 48% reported seeing a professional about a mental health issue in the last 6 months (n=20)
- 24% had an identified learning or development disability (n=24)
- 40% had received diagnosis with a brain injury (n=17)
- 12% indicated that they had a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility (n=5)

Trauma
In addition, 36% report having attempting to harm themselves in the last year (n=13) and 58% reported experiencing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other abuse which they identify as causing their homelessness (n=24). A large number (30% or n=12) of veterans indicated that they had been in foster or institutional care as a child.

6.6 Interaction with the justice system
Veterans also identified multiple interactions with the police and the criminal justice system.

A considerable number of respondents (70% n=29) had been incarcerated in prison, 84% (n=35) had spent time in police custody.

A number of participants 31% (n=25) had been victims of violence/physically assaulted while experiencing homelessness.

In total, veterans had 155 interactions with the police over the past 6 months.
7. Conclusion and further data analysis

This report provides a broad overview of information from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015.

As the peak agency for homelessness services in NSW, Homelessness NSW intends to work with members to replicate Registry Week in areas throughout the state. The data generated will be used to provide assistance to the individuals who participated as well as to drive more targeted and effective service delivery and policy responses to people experiencing homelessness.

The de-identified data from the Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015 is held by the Mercy Foundation, Homelessness NSW and NEAMI National and can be further interrogated if services or community members would like specific information or would like to compare or analyse the data in different ways.
APPENDIX A

Survey questions

Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

Introduction script for volunteers

Hello,

My name is [first name] and I am volunteer collecting some information on behalf of some housing and health services in the city. The idea is to collect information that will help us better identify people’s needs to support them to access accommodation with support. It should take about thirty minutes and if you choose to participate you will be given $15 cash.

If the person chooses not to participate – try to encourage them or offer to come back when it might be a more convenient time for them. But if they don’t want to then thank them for their time and then make sure that you note down the location and other details on the survey refusal form:

If the person chooses to participate:

Great. Before we start the survey we just have to discuss consent. We will explain more about your rights and how we will protect your privacy. It should take about five minutes and you will be asked to sign a form to say you agree to participate.
Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

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**Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**

**Prescreen for Individuals**

**Participant Consent form - Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015**

**Privacy Notice** This privacy notice applies to Neami National, the Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects. All organisations with access to personal information comply with privacy and health legislation when collecting and managing personal information. The information we collect from you or from an authorised third party will be held in a secure online database and only Neami National, the Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects will be able to access that information. The Mercy Foundation and Micah Projects only have access to the database in order to assist with data analysis. Information where your identity is concealed will be used to plan, coordinate and improve the way we provide services and address homelessness in Sydney. Any personal information supplied by you will not be disclosed unless your consent is given to do so, or if it is required by law.

Further information about your privacy rights can be gained by contacting Neami National:
Website: www.neaminational.org.au
Phone: 1800 505 501 (free call)
Email: outreach@neaminational.org.au

**Participant Consent**

I understand that:

- ☐ I can change my mind and stop my consent at any time, including amending or removing my record. If I withdraw my consent my record will be permanently deleted and the paper copy destroyed.
- ☐ If I do not sign this form I will still receive the services I currently get. But, by not giving my consent, other agencies may not be able to get a full understanding of my needs and circumstances.
- ☐ I agree that my name and date of birth can be shared with NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) to assist with accessing secure and stable accommodation. If FACS has a record about my request for housing, I agree FACS can tell you about that.
- ☐ My information will be entered into a secure database and the physical record will be held securely by Neami National in accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records Information Act.
- ☐ It has been explained to me that if I feel that some of my information is sensitive or could impact on my safety, I can let the person surveying me with this form know.
- ☐ **For people sleeping rough only:** I agree to being photographed for the sole purpose of agencies providing me with follow up assistance.

I authorise Neami National to share my information with the following person/agency for the sole purpose of assisting with my housing, health and social support needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation Name:</th>
<th>Tick for Consent</th>
<th>Location/Contact Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page | 30 | Inner City Sydney | Registry Week 2015 Report
Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

Prescreen for Individuals

Signed Consent
Participant Name:________________________
Participant Signature:_____________________
Date:________________________
Surveyor:________________________
Signature:________________________

Verbal Consent
Name
Witness:________________________
Date:________________________
Surveyor:________________________
Signature:________________________

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCRIPT: This is the first part of the survey. It’s just asking some general information about you.

A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

SCRIPT: This next part asks questions about your history of housing and homelessness

1. Interviewer’s Name
2. Agency
   ☐ TEAM ☐ STAFF ☐ VOLUNTEER
3. Date
4. Time
5. Location and postcode
6. In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?
7. Participant’s First Name
8. Participant’s Last Name
9. Nickname
10. Centrelink Reference Number
11. How old are you?
12. What’s your date of birth?
13. Has Consented to Participate ☐ YES ☐ NO

QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
14. What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in emergency accommodation? (months) | ☐ |
15. What is the total length of time you have lived without stable accommodation? (months) | ☐ |
16. In the past three years, how many times have you changed addresses? | ☐ |
B. RISKS

SCRIPT: I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with health and emergency services. Feel free to decline any that you don’t want to answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17. Since June, how many times have you been to Accidents and Emergencies at the hospital?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Since June, how many times have you had an interaction with the police?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Since June, how many times have you been taken to the hospital in an ambulance?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Since June, how many times have you used a crisis service, including any phone hotlines? Eg Link2Home.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Since June, how many times have you been hospitalised as an in-patient, including hospitalisations in a mental health hospital?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22. Have you been physically assaulted whilst you have been experiencing homelessness?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Have you threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in you being locked up or having to pay fines?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Does anybody force or stand over you to do things that you do not want to do?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Do you ever do things that might be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don’t really know, share a needle, or anything like that?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARK ONLY ONE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27. I am going to read types of places people sleep. Please tell me which one you sleep at most often. (Mark only one)</td>
<td>With friends/family, temporarily</td>
<td>Foster home</td>
<td>Bushland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency/ Crisis accommodation</td>
<td>Beach/Riverbed</td>
<td>Squat/Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary accommodation</td>
<td>Hotel/Motel</td>
<td>Train Station/Bus Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Hostel</td>
<td>DV Refuge</td>
<td>Tent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boarding houses</td>
<td>Streets</td>
<td>Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Car</td>
<td>Toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug/alcohol treatment centre</td>
<td>Caravan Park (specify)</td>
<td>Other (specify)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Police cells</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jail/Juvenile Detention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. SOCIALISATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS

**SCRIPT:** Now I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with other people you know. Feel free to decline any that you don’t want to answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28. Is there anybody that thinks you owe them money?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Do you have any money coming in on a regular basis, through a job, government benefit, cash in hand work, or anything like that?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Do you have enough money to meet all of your expenses and debts on a fortnightly basis?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Do you have planned activities each day other than just surviving that you enjoy?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Do you have any friends, family or other people in your life out of convenience or necessity, but you do not like their company?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Do any friends, family or other people in your life ever take your money, borrow cigarettes, use your drugs, drink your alcohol, or get you to do things you really don’t want to do?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!**

34. Surveyor, do you detect signs of poor hygiene or daily living skills? ☐ ☐ ☑
### D. WELLNESS

**SCRIPT:** The next section asks more questions about your health and wellness. Some of these you may find personal or sensitive so remember you can decline to answer any questions you like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 35. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you’re not feeling well? (Surveyor, please tick all that apply and specify who and where for each)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | - St Vincent’s Hospital  
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital  
- Sydney Hospital  
- Other hospital  
- Other centre  
- Haymarket Foundation Clinic  
- Community Outreach Medical Emergency Team  
- Redfern Community Health Centre  
- Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern  
- GP who visits my hostel/boarding house  
- Bulk-billing GP  
- Other GP  
- Mission Australia Dental Service  
- St Vincent’s Way2Home Health Team  
- Other health service for homeless people  
- Other mental health service  
- St Vincent’s Community Mental Health Services  
- Glebe Community Mental Health Team  
- Redfern Community Mental Health Team  
- Headspace, Camperdown  
- St Vincent’s Drug and Alcohol Service  
- Kings Cross Safe Injecting Centre  
- Needle Exchange Service  
- Other drug and alcohol service  
- Camperdown Youth Health Service  
- Kirkton Rd Centre  
- Other youth health service  
- Women’s Health Centre  
- Does not go for care  
- Garden Court (Methadone clinic)  
- Rankin Court (Drug & Alcohol service)  
- Sexual health Centre (RPA)  
- Sexual Health Centre (Sydney Hospital)  
- Surry Hills Sexual Health Centre |
### Prescreen for Individuals

#### Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Condition</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Declined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36. Kidney disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>38. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>39. HIV+/AIDS (Surveyor reiterate that respondent need not answer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Emphysema</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Diabetes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Asthma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Hepatitis C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Tuberculosis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious health condition?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Other:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Have you ever had problematic drug or alcohol use, abused drugs or alcohol, or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>been told you do – including any issues with using medicines in a way you weren’t</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supposed to or using over-the-counter medications to get high?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Have you consumed alcohol and/or drugs almost every day or every day for the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past month?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Have you used injection drugs or shots since June?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

**Prescreen for Individuals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol problems and returned to drinking or using drugs?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. Have you used non-beverage alcohol like metho, cough syrup, mouthwash, rubbing alcohol, cooking wine, or anything like that or have you used inhalants like paint or petrol or anything like that since June?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. Have you blacked out because of your alcohol or drug use in the past month?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms or problematic alcohol or drug abuse?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. Ever been taken to a hospital against your will for a mental health reason?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. Gone to Accidents and Emergencies at the hospital because you weren’t feeling 100% well emotionally or because of your nerves?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. Spoken with a psychiatrist, psychologist or other mental health professional since June because of your mental health – whether that was voluntary or because someone insisted that you do so?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. Had a serious brain injury or head trauma?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61. Ever been told you have a learning disability or developmental disability?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. Do you have any problems concentrating and/or remembering things?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DECLINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63. Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms of severe, persistent mental illness or severely compromised cognitive functioning?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64. Have you had any medicines prescribed to you by a doctor that you do not take, sell, had stolen, misplaced, or where the prescriptions were never filled?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65. Yes or No – Have you experienced any emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other type of abuse or trauma in your life which you have not sought help for, and/or which has caused your homelessness?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SCRIPT:** I’d like to ask you a handful of questions now that help us better understand homelessness and improve housing and support services.

### QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>66. I am...</th>
<th>☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender ☐ Declined ☐ Intersex or X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67. How do you identify?</td>
<td>☐ Straight ☐ Queer ☐ Lesbian or gay ☐ Declined ☐ Bi-sexual ☐ Other (specify)..............................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68. Have you ever served in the Australian Defence Force?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69. What is your citizenship status?</td>
<td>☐ Australian Citizen ☐ Australian Resident ☐ Bridging Visa ☐ Other (specify) ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70. Where did you live prior to this?</td>
<td>☐ Inner Sydney ☐ Metropolitan and greater Sydney ☐ Elsewhere in NSW ☐ Elsewhere in Australia ☐ Somewhere else (specify) ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71. Have you ever been in foster care or institutional care as a child?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72. Have you ever been in custody?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73. Have you ever been in youth detention?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74. Have you ever been in prison?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75. Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [i.e. wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs]?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76. What kind of health cover do you have, if any? (mark all that apply)</td>
<td>☐ Medicare ☐ DVA ☐ Private Insurance ☐ None ☐ Other (specify) ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77. Have you had a Centrelink breach since June?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78. How do you make money? (mark all that apply)</td>
<td>☐ Youth Allowance ☐ Rent Assistance ☐ Home Away Allowance ☐ Begging ☐ Work, Employee ☐ Student Allowance ☐ Work, Self Employed ☐ Maintenance (child support) ☐ Work, Big Issue Vendor ☐ Family Tax Benefit ☐ Work, Big Issue Vendor ☐ Any other pension/allowance ☐ Workers’ Compensation allowance ☐ Aged Pension ☐ Parenting Payment ☐ Disability Support Pension ☐ None of the above ☐ Other (specify) ____________________ ☐ No income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

#### Prescreen for Individuals

**QUESTIONS**

79. Do you identify as: (mark all that apply)
- [ ] Australian
- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Torres Strait Islander
- [ ] South Sea Islander
- [ ] Pacific Islander
- [ ] New Zealander
- [ ] British
- [ ] Scottish
- [ ] Irish
- [ ] Middle Eastern
- [ ] American
- [ ] South East Asian
- [ ] South American
- [ ] African
- [ ] Maori
- [ ] Other (specify below)

80. Do you attend school regularly?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Not applicable
- [ ] Declined

81. What is the highest year of school you completed?
- [ ] Year 12 or equivalent
- [ ] Year 11 or equivalent
- [ ] Year 10 or equivalent
- [ ] Year 9 or equivalent
- [ ] Year 8 or below
- [ ] Did not go to school
- [ ] Apprenticeship or Tertiary studies

82. On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of day is it easiest to do so?

83. Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can get in touch with you or leave you a message?

**SCRIPT:** Alright, we are almost there...

**QUESTIONS**

84. Do you have control of your finances?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

85. If not, who does?
- [ ] Public Trustee
- [ ] Carer
- [ ] Relative
- [ ] Other (specify)

86. Do you have a Medicare card?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

87. Do you have a pension card?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

**Do you have any of the following?**

88. Cellulitis
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

89. Foot/skin infections
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

90. Scabies
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined

91. Dehydration
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Declined
### Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Declined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92. Convulsions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93. Epilepsy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94. Are you pregnant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95. Dental problems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96. Who is your next of kin? We will contact this person in case of emergency.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97. Are you with others?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98. Do you have any pets?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99. If yes, what kind of pet(s)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Script: Finally...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Declined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100. What do you need to be safe and well?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101. Have you ever or are you being forced to work, marry or perform acts of a sexual nature against your will because of fear, threats or intimidation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102. For people sleeping rough only: Ok, finally I'd like to take your picture. May I do so?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Declined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B

Privacy and confidentiality Handout

Inner City Sydney Registry Week 2015

Know your Rights

Homelessness NSW, Neami National, The Haymarket Foundation, The Mercy Foundation and The City of Sydney, Homelessness Unit are working together to establish a register of all people experiencing homelessness in Sydney.

What information is being collected?
- You will be asked to provide information on housing, health and social needs.

How will this information be used?
- Non-identifiable information will be used to inform government, non-government agencies, research and the community about the needs and experiences of people experiencing homelessness.
- With your consent, information you provide will be used to help services assist you to access housing, health care and other support.

Who else can access my information?
- If you nominate a service provider this information can be shared with them for the sole purpose of supporting you to access housing and other support.
- Your personal information will not be shared with a third party without your consent.

Where is this information stored?
- Information you provide in this survey will be entered into a secure online database with access limited to Neami National and Mercy Foundation. The paper copy will be stored in a secure, locked cabinet.

What if I change my mind about giving consent?
- You can withdraw consent at any time. You have the right to review, change and withdraw your information at any time at no cost by contacting Neami National:
  - Phone: 1800 505 501 (free call)
  - Email: outreach@neaminational.org.au
- Once your consent is withdrawn your record is permanently deleted from the database and the paper copy is destroyed.

Please retain this form for future reference.