

#RuralHomelessnessCounts

86% 91% 80% 81%

Of Housing and Homelessness Providers consider rural homelessness to be a **Significant** or **Acute problem**

Of respondents in rural areas have seen **homelessness increase** in the past **five years**

Of organisations in rural areas believe a lack of **funding/resources** is the **main obstacle** in addressing homelessness in their area

Of respondents believe that **rough sleeping is experienced differently** in rural compared to urban areas

23% of respondents think **stigma is a barrier** people experiencing homelessness face when seeking support

24% **increase** to official **rural rough sleeping** figures in just one year

" UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS IS AT CRISIS POINT, LEAVING MANY AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS. "



STRATEGY:

All future homelessness and rough sleeping strategies consider the needs of rural communities and 'at risk' residents living in them.



SYSTEMS:

Improved processes for better counting and identifying instances of rural homelessness. Dedicated investment to fund much needed rural social housing and welfare system to cover the cost of rent.



SERVICES:

Delivering new homelessness support services in rural communities that address mental health and social and physical isolation.

COUNTING THE INVISIBLE:

Rough sleeping counts ignore hidden rural homeless

UNSEEN

- + UNSUPPORTED
 - + ISOLATED
 - + UNAFFORDABLE
-
- = **RURAL HOMELESSNESS CRISIS**



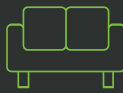
Tents



Outbuildings



Churches



Sofa Surfing



Vehicles



Woodlands

► **Rural Homelessness:**
a growing crisis
- not just an urban problem

► **Lack of Support Services:**
government policy failing
rural communities

► **Urgently Needed:**
a new cross-government
commitment to address the
hidden crisis of rural homelessness

+ **BETTER DATA**
+ **CROSS GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT**
+ **FAIRER FUNDING**
+ **RURAL/URBAN PARTNERSHIPS**

= **RURAL HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS**