

# Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service

Providing a range of services to children  
and their families experiencing homelessness



## What is the Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service(HCSSS)?

### The Service aims to:

- provide a flexible and immediate response to improve support outcomes for children
- reduce the stress on parents by assisting them to resolve the support issues of their children
- improve access to specialist and mainstream support resources
- further support the homelessness sector in providing support to children and families.

**The child is considered the primary client of the HCSSS.**

### What does the Service provide?

Specialist support to children and their families experiencing homelessness, through the provision of three integrated streams of service:

**Stream 1:** Supported Assessment and Case Planning; limited, supported case management response to children in collaboration with referring agencies to enhance the provision of child and family centred case management.

**Stream 2:** Enhanced Case Management for children with complex needs; specialist support to children with significant needs, in close consultation with parents / caregivers, referring agencies and systems around the child and family. Builds on the assessment and case plan developed in stream one and provides an intensive support response to children.

**Stream 3:** Group work for children in homeless families; support to children in a group setting to enhance their self esteem; social skills, develop effective coping strategies, learn from each other and build a greater sense of connectedness to community.

### Accessing the Service

A focus on children aged 0-12 (with capacity to support children up to the age of 18) in homeless families who are supported by homelessness assistance and family violence services.

The HCSSS provides outreach across the Barwon South West region, with staff based in Geelong and Warrnambool.

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