Friday 7 August

Student Challenge: Creative responses to homelessness
Digital Conversation/ Online challenge

Language Matters
To proceed with this task you must read the 'language matters' document.

Sample questions to get you thinking

Questions to ask in vox pops to the wider or university community:

1. Ask their name, age, degree and university
2. Read out a statistic and ask the person;
   - Were you aware of this, if so how did you find out? If not, how does it make you feel?
3. How does it make you feel when considering your own situation?
4. How do you feel Adelaide is fairing when it comes to our response to homelessness?
5. What will the state of homelessness be in 2030? Why?
6. Reflect on how a person experiencing homelessness may feel.

Questions to consider for art works, poems, videos

7. What does a future where no one experiences homelessness look like?
8. Are you aware of the impacts of COVID-19 on people sleeping rough? What have you heard or read about and how have you found out this information?
9. How do think other social crises feed into homelessness, i.e. unemployment, food insecurity, mental health issues.

Reference Material

- https://dunstan.org.au/adelaide-zero-project/
- https://dunstan.org.au/adelaide-zero-project/dashboard/
- https://everybodyshome.com.au/
- https://dunstan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Thinker-in-Residence-Dr-Nonie-Brennan-Final-Report.pdf
- https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-14/homelessness-in-australia-jumps-14pc-over-five-year-period/9547786
- https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/filthy-rich-and-homeless

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LANGUAGE matters

Language is powerful… so it's essential to think about it when discussing important topics like homelessness.

The way we speak or write about someone greatly influences the images and attitudes we form about them, and our words can leave behind either positive or negative impression for others too.

Stigmatising language can perpetuate and reinforce negative stereotypes so it's important to use 'person-centred' language. This type of language focuses on the person first, and their situation last. It can speak to the temporary nature of someone's *experience*, rather than labelling and defining someone based on their situation or circumstance.

Using person-centred language is a simple and effective way of showing you care and respect a person's agency, dignity and worth. It's an easy way to use language to empower people.

This information sheet shows some simple ways to 'swap' your language to be more inclusive, respectful and person-centred:

✓	✗
Person sleeping rough	Rough sleeper
People experiencing homelessness	Homeless people, bum, vagrant, hobo
Substance use	Substance abuse
Person with a dependence on	Junkie, druggie, addict
Housing those sleeping rough	Clean up the streets
Person who has stopped using drugs	Clean, sober, drug-free
Person experiencing poverty	Poor, povo, dole bludger
Individual/person with lived experience	Ex-addict, Ex-homeless
Person experiencing poor mental health	Mental, crazy, psycho
Experiencing or facing barriers	Suffering from/with
People with low incomes	Struggling to make ends meet
A person with a disability	Disabled
Non-visible disability	Intellectually challenged, retard

ADELAIDE **zero** PROJECT

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