

1st December 2017

Mayors for Peace,
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima,
C/- Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation
mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Dear Mayors for Peace,

HOMELESSNESS – “COAT DAY”

Enormity is a not for profit, community based, youth committee, officially formed in 1996, with the aims to:

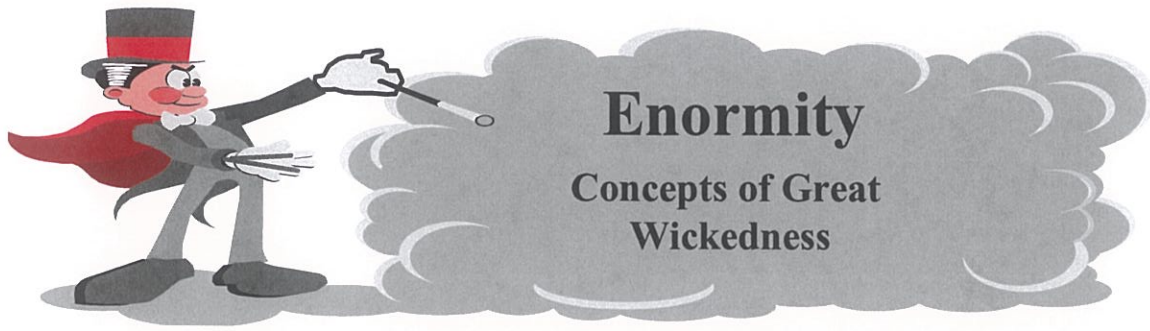
- Involve young people in positive real life, entrepreneurial, community and fun activities/events
- Change community attitude towards young people
- Assist the community wherever possible
- Address the lack of relevant affordable entertainment for their age group and therefore attacking boredom and associated problems.
- Experience success and minimise failure
- Be honest, earnest, create and have fun

In 1998, a friend of the group became homeless, in the middle of winter and having no possessions. To assist this person and many others, Enormity created a public appeal for the donation of winter coats for redistribution to those in need or homeless - “Coat Day”. Coats were chosen as they were not only easily transportable, they provided warmth, protection and could be used as a blanket or pillow.

What started out as an effort to help a friend, soon became national with then Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. John Howard donated his own personal coat to the appeal, with many other dignitaries and celebrities following.

Next year, on Saturday 2nd June 2018, Enormity reaches its target of 20 years of “Coat Day”, still seeking to reach the target of raising 100,000 coats, needing just under 800 to fully meet their goal.

Enormity
C/- 26 Tugrah Road, Devonport Tasmania, Australia 7310.
steve.martin.tas@outlook.com



Through the group's founder and mentor, Steve Martin (Mayor, City of Devonport, Tasmania), our committee became aware of your organisation and your mission statement and is why we are writing to you: -

The Mayors for Peace, through close cooperation among the cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realization of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.

We would humbly welcome the support of all Mayors in raising awareness of homelessness globally and respectfully suggest each register with Enormity to:

- donate a coat of their belonging to a local organisation in their City, or
- send a coat with a public message to our committee, to form part of the 20-year recognition of homelessness. Address: - Enormity, C/- 26 Tugrah Road, Devonport, Tasmania, Australia 7310.

Your assistance with our efforts would be greatly appreciated, especially that of sending our request throughout your membership.

For your reference, please find attached a letter of support from our inaugural Patron Sue Smith then Mayor Central Coast Council 1998 and our current Patron Jan Bonde, Mayor Central Coast Council. We have also attached a historic snap shot of our history.

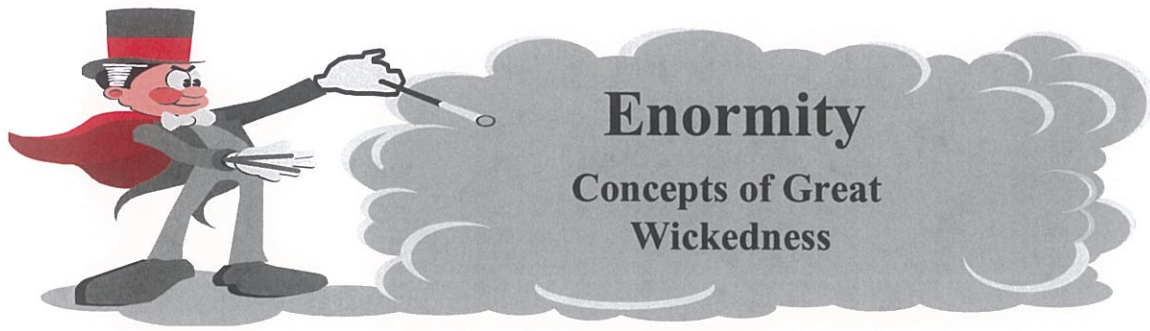
Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely


Anna Paice
Inaugural President


Emily Allardice
Current President

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Background – Homelessness in Australia

A United Nations global survey in 2005 found that an estimated 100 million people are homeless worldwide. Habitat for Humanity estimated in 2015 that 1.6 billion people around the world live in "inadequate shelter".^[1]

However, since there's no internationally accepted definition of what homelessness actually is, and, given there'll always be a proportion of 'hidden homelessness', the true figure may be impossible to calculate: 100 million may be a significant underestimation.

Homelessness in Australia is more than lacking a roof over your head, it is also the absence of those features associated with "home": permanence, security, and the freedom to come and go.

As well as the obvious harm done to those who experience it, homelessness impacts us all as a society. According to Homelessness Australia, while the federal government spends an average of \$15,000 per person per year on services, this number doubles to \$30,000 for people who need to access services to help them deal with their homelessness. This strain on government services means money is not being spent on communal needs elsewhere.

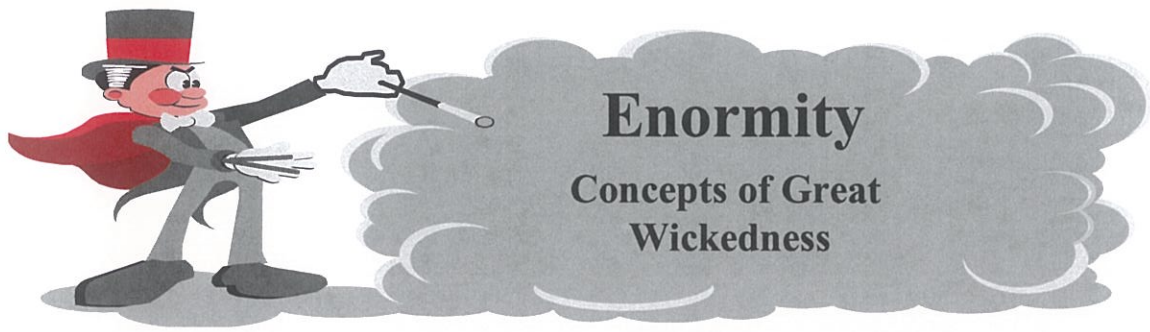
Homeless in Australia

In Australia, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) determines who is homeless and who isn't. It classes a person as homeless if they lack alternative accommodation and their current dwelling:

- provides inadequate shelter; or
- is not available long-term; or
- doesn't allow control of, and access to, the space for social relations

Who will be homeless tonight in Australia?

On any given night one in 200 people will be homeless. Fifty-six percent are men, and, demonstrating the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents, almost 27,000 – one quarter – are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, who are just three percent of Australia's population.



According to Mission Australia, domestic violence is the single biggest cause of homelessness, with poverty and income inequality also playing a large role. Mental illness and alcoholism are considered secondary factors, meaning treating the illness alone will not necessarily end the homelessness.