

Pathways to homelessness: personal and structural factors in location and mobility of homeless people

*Michael Darcy, University of West Sydney, NSW
Steve Coles, Director, Homeless Persons Information Centre, NSW*

This paper will present findings from an ARC funded study conducted jointly by UWS, the City of Sydney and NSW Shelter. Statistical analysis of over 50,000 client contact records collected by the Homeless Persons Information Centre over a five-year period was combined with regional employment and housing data, and in-depth interviews, to develop a better understanding of the mobility behaviour and location choices of homeless people. The research identifies 'push' and 'pull' factors associated with employment and housing, family and friendship networks, drug use and other health issues. The findings will be of interest to policy makers and practitioners seeking information to assist in the structure and location of services for homeless people.

Contact details:

Michael Darcy
University of Western Sydney
School of Applied Science & Human Services
Bankstown Campus
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith South DC NSW 1797
Ph: 02 9772 6252
Email: m.darcy@uws.edu.au