

Courtesy of Good Karma Bus



Below are just a few examples of important SOCIAL CAUSES for Port Stephens.

Homelessness

- ✓ Port Stephens' current data (Aug 2024) indicates that over 450 people are without secure housing, but the issue goes beyond housing. Many people are struggling to meet basic needs like food and essential household items, with our local services already stretched thin.
- ✓ Port Stephens Council have recently established the Port Stephens Homelessness Stakeholder Advocacy Group (HSAG) to try and develop community solutions.

Source: [Port Stephens Homeless Statistics Report](#).

Domestic Violence

- ✓ An ABS report in June 2022 found that an estimated 3.8 million people (20%) in Australia have experienced violence (physical and/or sexual) by an intimate partner or family member since the age of 15, including: 27% of women (2.7 million) and 12% of men (1.1 million)
- ✓ Port Stephens LGA records significantly higher incidents of reported family and domestic violence. Violent incidents are 2.3 times more likely to be reported in Raymond Terrace and 2.7 times more in Tanilba Bay than the NSW state average.

Sources: [ABS Domestic Violence Stats](#) | [Port Stephens Domestic Violence Stats](#)

Child Sexual Abuse

- ✓ The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS), the first nationally representative study of child maltreatment rates, found that 28.5% of Australians experienced child sexual abuse. Girls experience double the rate of child sexual abuse (37.3% c.f. 18.8% of boys; Mathews, Pacella, Scott, et al., 2023).
- ✓ Experienced by 1 in 6 Australian female children and 1 in 9 male children. The statistics for Port Stephens are even more grim. Port Stephens was listed as the 13th highest Local Government Area in NSW for child sexual abuse in 2022. 157 cases of child of sexual abuse were reported for the single year ending 30 June 2022. Keep in mind the rate of reporting for this crime is estimated to be below 10%. So, 992 children out of every 100,000 in Port Stephens are victims of sexual abuse while the NSW state number is 552. Port Stephens has almost twice the instance of child sexual abuse compared to the state average.
- ✓ It's a disgrace and the legal system is broken. Organisations such as Bravehearts are dedicated to eliminating child sexual abuse.

Sources: [Bravehearts Statistics](#) | [Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Maps](#) | [ABS Child Abuse Statistics](#)

Environmental Causes

- ✓ Climate change affects everyone on the planet, so all environmental initiatives are relevant eg. reducing carbon footprint, eliminating pollution, deforestation and landfill, protecting our oceans and rehabilitating forests, protecting wildlife on land and in our oceans etc.