

**Question 23**

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies characteristics of the homeless</li> <li>Provides detailed information about their access to resources in order to meet their needs.</li> <li>Provides a clear and valid judgement(s) of their access to resources in order to meet their needs</li> <li>Provides relevant examples</li> </ul>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies characteristics of the homeless</li> <li>Provides information about their access to resources in order to meet their needs</li> <li>Provides a judgement of their access to resources in order to meet their needs</li> <li>Provides some relevant examples</li> </ul>	6-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies characteristics of the homeless</li> <li>Provides information about their access to resources and their needs</li> <li>Provides a limited judgement of their access to resource or a link between accessing resources and meeting their needs</li> <li>Provides examples</li> </ul>	4-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides some information about the homeless and/or their access to resources and/or their needs</li> <li>Provides examples that may rely on personal experience</li> </ul>	2-3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides one point about the homeless or access to services or needs</li> </ul>	1

*Answer may include:* The ABS statistical definition of homeless is when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives if their current living arrangement is: in a dwelling that is inadequate; has no tenure; or does not allow them to have control of and access to space for social relations. People who are experiencing homelessness are usually staying: in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out; in supported accommodation for the homeless; temporarily with other households; boarding houses; have other temporary lodging or are in severely overcrowded dwellings.

Many people may become homeless due to the chronic shortage of affordable and available rental housing, domestic and family violence, intergenerational poverty, financial crisis, economic and social exclusions, unemployment, mental illness and psychological distress, family conflict, exiting state care or exiting prison. Many homeless people face malnutrition, loneliness, poor hygiene, alcohol and drug addiction, low self-esteem and sense of identity, social alienation, mental issues, and trouble with the law.

The homeless have access to services available to them but are often unable to access them due to poor literacy skills, e.g., are unable to fill in forms; having no fixed address, e.g., cannot obtain a bank account thus cannot access Centrelink payments; budget cuts, e.g., government slashing funding from area of Sydney City; services being at capacity, e.g., Wesley Mission turn people away due to insufficient bed numbers.

Lack of suitable housing is an issue. The homeless require emergency, short term and more permanent housing. Although there are shelter options available, budget cuts and lack of funding make it impossible to accommodate many of our homeless both on a nightly and permanent basis.

The homeless are vulnerable and their security and safety is often compromised. They are often on the street, in parks, tunnels and other dangerous areas. If they find accommodation it is usually temporary. The Salvation Army, Wesley Mission, St Vincent de Paul offer emergency and temporary shelter options but are often at capacity and turn people away.

Financial support is available through Centrelink and various charities. Centrelink has Community Engagement Officers who visit hostels, refuges and other places where the homeless gather in an attempt to help the homeless access payments to which they may be entitled, e.g., Unemployment Benefits and Youth Allowance. However, having no fixed address may make it difficult to claim these payments.

Question 23 continues on the next page

*Keep characteristics factual  
 → lack of employment  
 → " " education  
 → mental health  
 not 'lazy, dirty'*