





TAKING STOCK OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



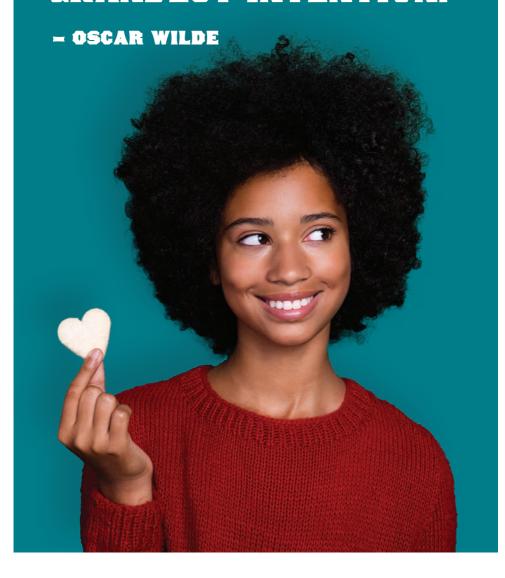


GETTING TO THE HEART OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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The local and national
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A unique insight into staying sharp in life

"THE SMALLEST ACT OF KINDNESS IS WORTH MORE THAN THE GRANDEST INTENTION."



Editorial 15 March 2025

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- · Caring for people
- · Creating faith pathways
- · Building healthy communities
- · Working for justice

The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay ourrespect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.





Scan here to connect with The Salvation Army services



Scan here for the Social Justice Stocktake 2025

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A national and hyper-local snapshot

The Salvation Army's 2025 Social Justice Stocktake was launched on 20 February to coincide with the World Day of Social Justice.

In this edition, we feature an overview of the Stocktake as both a "national and hyperlocal" report that highlights the social justice concerns and lived experiences of people in every electorate around the country.

Throughout this year, Salvos Magazine will highlight a range of these issues of national concern, including housing affordability, mental health, financial hardship and access to healthcare. Our coverage will include a snapshot of the issue with links to more information, and resources on how we can all respond to make a difference and help bring change in our communities and nation.

My Story focuses on Shire Salvos in southern Sydney, where a community hub spread across seven sites provides a range of services and support to people struggling with many of the issues raised in the Social Justice Stocktake.

For these stories and more, go to **salvosonline.org.au**

Simone Worthing **Editor**

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE STOCKTAKE 2025

Getting to the heart of local communities

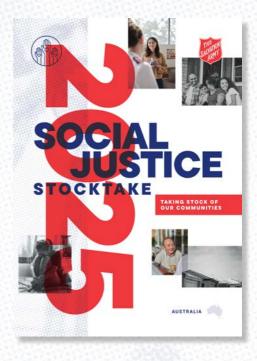
by Jennifer Kirkaldy

Working for justice is at the heart of what The Salvation Army does in Australia. It is integral to our ethos, our mission and our vision.

In our inaugural 2022 Stocktake, The Salvation Army wanted to get to the heart of what people were seeing in their local communities, and from there build a map of social justice priorities across Australia. We found surprising agreement about the issues affecting communities across Australia, regardless of where they are and how they vote. We heard many people felt overwhelmed, even hopeless, when asked how Australia could address the issues they saw in their local communities.

In 2024, we again checked in across the nation — with almost 16,000 Australians across every state and territory and in every electorate. This time there was even more consensus about the top issues affecting individuals and communities. An extraordinary 71 per cent of survey respondents reported that housing affordability and homelessness were key issues in their community. The majority of respondents also agreed that mental health, financial hardship, and access to healthcare were in the top five issues facing their communities.

The sentiment of respondents was different this time. In 2021, we heard a sense of helplessness about addressing social injustice. This year, there was also an overwhelming sense of urgency in response to perceived governmental inaction — many respondents left



messages calling on decision-makers to put politics aside and prioritise action.

So instead of just providing our findings, we've tried to arm readers with practical solutions and pathways towards the changes they want to see in their communities. We firmly believe that every social justice issue can be addressed. Every person can make a difference. Together, we can make an even greater difference.

Our hope is that the Social Justice Stocktake 2025 report will show how.

Jennifer Kirkaldy, General Manager Policy and Advocacy Feature 15 March 2025

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

| ISSUES FOR COMMUNITY | RESPONSE |
|--|----------|
| Housing affordability and homelessness | 71.0% |
| Mental health | 57.6% |
| Financial hardship and inclusion | 53.2% |
| Access to healthcare | 50.4% |
| Alcohol and drug misuse | 43.4% |
| Family violence | 32.7% |
| Climate change | 30.1% |

| ISSUES FOR SELF | RESPONSE |
|--|----------|
| Mental health | 40.3% |
| Housing affordability and homelessness | 36.5% |
| Financial hardship and inclusion | 32.31% |
| Climate change | 30.3% |
| Access to healthcare | 30.1% |
| Social isolation and loneliness | 19.0% |
| Unemployment and underemployment | 16.2% |

For additional results, explanations and information, scan the QR code on page 3.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS



The most striking result from the Stocktake is the extraordinary consensus across Australia about what issues we are seeing.

Housing affordability and homelessness were overwhelmingly the top social justice concerns people saw in their community, irrespective of geography and socioeconomic status. An enormous 71 per cent of respondents identified these issues in their community, and they were the most common concerns across seven out of eight Australian jurisdictions.

Housing and homelessness were in the top four issues in every single electorate in Australia. Only around half the number of people who identified this issue in their community identified it in their own lives (35.52 per cent), although this still places it as the second most common issue respondents had personally experienced.

Australia is experiencing a housing crisis. The 2021 census recorded that 122,494 people were homeless on any given night, and the consensus is that this estimate will have increased.

Australia has a shortfall of 640,000 social housing properties, an increase in shortfall of more than 200,000 since reported in the last Social Justice Stocktake (in 2022). The struggle to find affordable rentals is particularly pervasive among those on minimum wage, with 82 per cent of properties unaffordable for families earning minimum wage, 98 per cent of properties unaffordable for single parents on minimum wage, and 100 per cent of properties unaffordable for persons on JobSeeker, retirees on the age pension and persons on disability support pension.

THE ISSUES: WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Australian Capital Territory

"[These issues] are real.

They impact real people.

These things cause deaths.

These things cause suicides.

These things cause family violence.

These things cause family breakdowns.

We need action that improves outcomes, that increases inclusion and community."

New South Wales

"These are growing issues.

Right now, we still have a chance to fix it but the longer we leave it, the worse it'll be for the people and economy."

Northern Territory

"For the government to actually listen to the people in the community instead of what they think needs to happen."

Queensland

"That things are about to get worse and quickly if they don't act and house people. People need the basic right of shelter and to feel safe."





South Australia

"I would like to see initiatives that encourage young and old to be more involved in their communities and lead healthy lifestyles that help everyone rise together. A local community that has a roof over their heads, healthy relationships and are financially thriving is what I would love to see."

Tasmania

"[I would like decision-makers to know] what it is actually like to have to decide whether you want to have somewhere to live or whether to put food on the table this week/fortnight/month."

Victoria

"We need to find ways to unite rather than focus on what makes people different."

Western Australia

"I'd like the government to make the hard calls instead of just trying to win votes and save their jobs."

Support for Salvos flood relief



Premier David Crisafulli,
centre, with the Salvos team.

Heavy rains and severe flooding impacted communities across Townsville, Innisfail, Ingham, Gordonvale, Cardwell, and the Hinchinbrook region in Queensland last month. To bolster the flood recovery efforts of The Salvation Army and other key organisations, the Queensland Government announced a donation of \$250,000 in support.

As Premier David Crisafulli said, "Now is the time for the community to band together and provide much-needed support to our fellow Queenslanders up north who have lost so much."

This donation will help the Salvos provide essential food, clothing, household items, and vital emotional, financial and social support to those affected by this once-in-a-century event.

Daryl Crowden, Salvation Army Emergency Services General Manager, thanked the Queensland Government and Premier for their support.

A place of connection



Georges River Councillor Christina Jamieson officially opens the Narwee CCC community garden.

A community garden at Narwee Salvos in Sydney's south is bringing local residents together in a meaningful way to connect with nature and each other.

Georges River Councillor Christina Jamieson officially opened the Narwee CCC (Coffee, Chat, Connect) community garden last December.

Residents gather on Wednesdays and Thursdays to connect over a cuppa, play games, enjoy a sausage sizzle and purchase low-cost groceries and fresh produce through a small Salvos pantry in the centre. Now, they can also access fresh vegetables and herbs grown in the community garden.

"It's about more than just gardening; it's about fostering relationships, building community resilience, and addressing practical needs like access to fresh produce," said Salvos Captain David Delany. – Lauren Martin

News 15 March 2025

Karate changes lives

→ Many generations come together at Boronia Salvos to learn Japanese Kyokushin Karate and the benefits it brings.



It's Kyokushin Karate night at Boronia Salvos in Victoria, with a sea of red and black foam mats dominating the landscape as martial artists join forces to practise the unique art form that is transforming people's lives, hearts and approaches to life.

"It has been a real hit," says Tracey Brown,
Boronia Salvos Financial
Counsellor, who initiated
the project. "In a short
time, it has just taken off."

People of all ages gather three times a week to practise Kyokushin Karate at the Dojo (martial arts space) where courtesy, respect, discipline and inclusivity are a core focus and violence is not taught. Salvos volunteers attend each session, offering refreshments plus emotional and practical support. The goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of others, especially young people, encouraging them to give it a go.

The community has fully embraced the initiative, with support from local businesses and other Salvos programs. The mixed-age classes allow young people to learn from older generations and each other

Life-changing values

Sempai Aharon Claridge, who leads the Knox Dojo, emphasises discipline, self-control, respect and character – values that have shaped his life, especially through struggles with anxiety and depression.

"Karate has shaped me into the person I am today," he says. "It can be for people who want to exercise or those wanting to become a world-class fighter."

The Salvos team has seen a transformation in young people with low self-esteem as they gain confidence, respect and discipline through karate. The profound effect has also been witnessed by their parents, noting their children have been changed for the better.

"Karate has taught me perseverance," says Angus, who attends the classes. "There are days I think ah, it's too hard. Then I think about some of the stuff I've done at karate and I'm like, nah, that was harder. I can do this." – Lerisse Smith

SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

A woodchopping tip to gain an edge in life

by Dean Simpson

During my 25-year career as a sports journalist, I covered a wide variety of events and competitions. One of the more unusual ones was woodchopping.

I was once sent out to report on the Australian Woodchopping Championships, where I witnessed an adrenaline-pumping three days of fierce competition. To this day, the sound of an axe on wood still echoes in my head whenever I recall the event.

But it was fascinating, and I became absorbed in watching the impressive strength, stamina and skill of the profusely sweating woodchoppers, or 'axemen' as they preferred to be called.

There were three main events: Standing Block, where the competitor stands beside a man-sized block and chops either side until he's through; Underhand, where the axeman stands on the top of the log and uses a downwards motion to chop it in two as fast as possible; and Tree-felling, where the axeman faces a tall pole and must first cut and insert up to two 'jigger' boards before standing on the top board to cut through the top of the pole.

I also learned a lot about the sport's history. Apparently, the modern sport of woodchopping originated in 1870 in Ulverstone, Tasmania, resulting from a £25 (\$50) bet between two axemen on who could first fell a tree. And the world's first woodchopping championships were held at Bell's Parade, Latrobe, Tasmania, in 1891.

The main event

While the action at the woodchopping championships was riveting, I was also fascinated by the detailed care the competitors took with their axes. One competitor told me a tournament axe can cost up to \$1000 and revealed that he often spends hours sharpening it at events.

He then told me that for all the bulging strength and incredible fitness that these competitors required, it came down to one factor that gave axemen the edge, so to speak. To illustrate his point, he related the following story:

"Two men went into a forest to cut some firewood. They worked all day, and after a couple of hours, one stopped for 10 minutes while the other continued to work, chopping harder as his mate took a break.

Faith Talk 15 March 2025



"This pattern continued throughout the day, one stopping every couple of hours while the other worked relentlessly. At the end of the day, when the piles of wood were compared, the one who stopped regularly had chopped down more timber than the one who worked tirelessly. 'I don't understand,' he said, 'How could you chop more wood than me?' 'Simple,' came the reply, 'Every time I stopped, I was sharpening my axe.'"

Staying sharp

I often stop to think about this story whenever I feel that life is getting on top of me and I'm feeling ... well, blunt.

True story or fable, it doesn't really matter. The simple truth is that when we stop to sharpen the 'axe' in our own lives, we actually achieve a great deal more

than if we work relentlessly.

But how can we stay 'sharp' in our daily lives?

Jesus gives us the answer: "Are you tired? Worn out? Get away with me, and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it ... Keep company with me, and you'll learn to live freely and lightly" (Matthew 11, verses 28-30 *The Message* Bible translation).

Taking time to read the Bible and pray and focusing on walking with Jesus through each day is the way to stay 'sharp' in life.

As Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12 states, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword."

NO WRONG DOOR

Salvos changing lives in The Shire, Dharawal Country

The Shire Salvos in Sutherland Shire, a local government area in the southern region of Sydney, is a warm and welcoming community hub where people can find a place to belong and can receive help from a range of services from food aid to health assistance to housing.

"In the Sutherland Shire, we have seven locations that we operate out of, including Salvos Stores," says Mark Soper, Shire Salvos Team Leader. "We have a bit of a mantra that we want to have a 'no wrong door policy', which [means that] when people see a Salvos logo they can go in there and get ... assistance and find community.

"Every week we're inundated with people needing accommodation and support, and so we do have some transitional housing and ... a house that's for families affected by domestic violence.

"Our goal is really to create places of community where people can come and gather, and then we can problem solve things together. And then it's linking them up with either our services, like financial counsellors or alcohol and other drugs workers, but then also to the other services as well."

Just like family

One community member has been coming to Shire Salvos for around four years. "I come and do the community garden, and I just look after all the plants," he says. "So now I am a signed-in volunteer here. Our grandson died and we have been finding it pretty hard, so we sought out The Salvation Army at Miranda.

"We've had to rely on some financial help, which you can get here. I look forward to coming up because it's all so friendly. They're just like a family ... With the Tuesday night meal and food hamper, it's just one night I don't have to cook, and I get a hot meal. They also pick the vegetables from the garden to put in the hampers, which is good."

Back on my feet

Another community member shares how he was "living on the street, getting in quite a bit of trouble and was ready to break down. I thought I was at a bad stage in my life. I had nowhere to go. I needed some help.

"I knew of the Salvos here ... I found Dave (Lieut-Colonel David Godkin, Mission Leader, Miranda) and it was the best thing that I found. Got me back on my feet and off the street. They've helped me out a lot – food, clothing and any assistance I need virtually. They got me into Pathways (alcohol and other drugs services).

"They go out of their way to help me. That meant a lot."

Holistic support

"The Heathcote site, around 13km from Miranda, came about from pure need," says Mark. "People in the community were contacting us. The site is across the road from the Royal National Park, and it's estimated that between 30 and 40 people are sleeping rough there.

My Story 15 March 2025













↑ The Shire Salvos is a welcoming community hub across seven locations, where people can find a place to belong and a range of services.

"The site is also between a vape store and a Bottle-O, so sadly, there is a lot of drug and alcohol use in this particular area.

For the Shire, our goal is to create the best holistic communities where people can find faith in Jesus, and where they can be supported and loved in a professional manner. It's all about people finding a home, that their name is known, they are valued, and they can come and gather. And then ongoing,

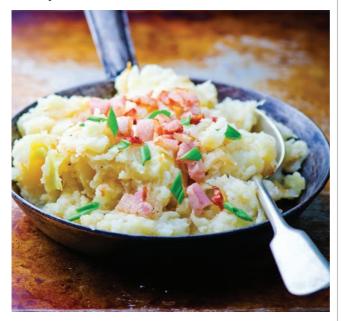
that they can then also help and contribute back into the community."



Scan here to view the Shire Salvos video. Taste of Life Salvos Magazine



St Patrick's mash



Ingredients

5 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped; 1 cup milk; 4 shallots, chopped; 30g butter; ¼ cabbage, shredded; 2 bacon rashers, chopped

Method

Place potatoes in a saucepan, just covered in water. Boil until tender

Place milk and shallots in saucepan. Bring to boil and remove from heat.

Mash potatoes and add milk and shallots.

Fry butter, cabbage and bacon in a hot pan until soft. Stir through mashed potatoes before serving.



Believe in Good: Tips

21 March - Common Courtesy Day

- Remember to say please and thank you.
- Show respect to everyone you meet.



Quiz



- What is the name of the genre that uses characters, settings and plots that aren't real but could resemble the truth?
- What genre is about strange and unusual characters, settings and plots?
- 3. What is the term for the time and location in which a story takes place?
- 4. What is the central character of a story called?
- 5. What is the term for the sequence of events involving characters and central conflict?



On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?

Take Five 15 March 2025



Have a laugh

What is the poorest kind of plant in the forest?

A vine, because it can't support itself.

Why does the leopard eat lunch in a different part of the forest every day?

Because she doesn't have a favourite spot.

What falls all over the forest but never gets hurt?

Kain

What do grizzlies do when they are having a bad day in the forest?

Grin and bear it.



On this day

19 March 1895

The Lumiere brothers record their first footage. Auguste and Louis Lumiere were the earliest filmmakers in history, recording workers leaving their factory in Lyon, France. The film is about 50 seconds long.



Answers

Tum-Tum: is hiding on a shelf on page 13.

Quiz: 1. Fiction 2. Fantasy 3. Setting 4. Protagonist 5. Plot



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Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

| Caring | Happiness | Meditation |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Community | Harmony | Mindfulness |
| Compassionate | Healing | Patience |
| Endorphins | Норе | Peace |
| Equality | Joy | Pleasure |
| Faithful | Kind | Positive |
| Friendship | Laughter | Smile |
| Fun | Love | Unity |



Bible byte

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John chapter 14, verse 27b

New International Version



A gift in your Will can help The Salvation Army create a long-lasting impact in the lives of those experiencing hardship.

Find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity. Contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team and ask for a free Wills booklet.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.



CONTACT US TODAY

1800 337 082 or visit salvationarmy.org.au/wills

