

Nova for Women and Children

WOMEN AND CHILDREN MATTER

Who we are

**Nova for Women and Children is a Specialist Homelessness and
Domestic Violence Service in the Newcastle West
and Lake Macquarie Regions**

Our Vision



**A world where women and children live a life that is safe, independent,
valued, respected and free from violence**

Our Purpose

**To prevent or end homelessness, confront injustice and advocate for the right
of women and their children to be safe**

What we do

We support women and their children who are at risk of homelessness and/or escaping family and domestic violence to access safe supported accommodation

**Domestic and Family Violence remains
the leading cause of
homelessness for women**

Poverty is a very close second!

Gendered Poverty and Climate Change

Gendered Poverty =
Gender Inequality and
Inequity

The Global Issues

The Global Issues



- Women and Children make up the major proportion of global poverty and are much more vulnerable to the impact of Climate Change
- In developing countries, often their work and household resources is reliant on agriculture
- Already experiencing poverty this would be further exacerbated by extreme weather patterns
- Already marginalised by poverty, women are most often excluded from participation in decision-making and leadership roles in climate change policies

The Global Issues con't

- Inequity means for women lack of access to vital weather information and hazards, so therefore more at risk
- Inequity means for women that they are less likely to manage alternative disease pathways due to climate change and medical treatment during extreme weather events

Globally women and children are unsafe during extreme weather events

- 40 Rapes were reported during Hurricane Katrina
- Children can be displaced from family members
- TRAUMA

The Local Issues

In the Previous financial year Nova supported
1213 people

That's an average of nearly **5** people per day

Of those, **505** stated domestic and family violence as their
main presenting reason for homelessness

- **415** were receiving Mental Health services
- **100** were aged **55** or over
- **462** main presenting reason was housing stress and financial difficulties

In other words poverty is impacting on women escaping domestic violence, and/or experiencing mental health issues

And women over 55 are becoming a growing group of people experiencing homelessness and poverty

CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMEN, POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

- **Women sleeping rough are exposed to the elements**
 1. **Loss of belongings**
 2. **Physical injuries**
 3. **Trauma**

- **Women & women and children are often living in substandard accommodation due to poverty**
 1. **Reliant on Landlord for efficient energy sources and enter into 'energy poverty'**
 2. **And reliant on Landlord for maintenance of property, leaking roofs etc**

CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMEN, POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

- **Women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and experiencing mental health issues during extreme weather conditions**
 1. **Mental Health issues exacerbated**
 2. **Relapse**
 3. **Trauma**
- **Similarly Women & women and children in Domestic and Family Violent Relationships**
 1. **More vulnerable to abuse in stressful conditions**
 2. **Inability to leave**

**Specialist Homelessness Services like Nova are
impacted by energy costs that cut into service
delivery dollars**

Climate Change

Is a Gender and Human Rights Issue

Everyone deserves and should have

SHELTER, SAFETY AND A STANDARD OF LIVING

And just an aside

I am appalled at the attempts to diminish Greta

Thunberg's Voice!

Nova for Women and Children



for women and children

[#WomenAndChildrenMatter](#)

Kelly Hansen

CEO