

mercy foundation youth awards 2016

General Information

1. Introduction

When people experience homelessness, life is hard. It is lonely, traumatising, dangerous and unpredictable. It’s really hard to get your life back on track, to plan for the future, when you are worried about where you are going to sleep tonight.

How do we respond to people experiencing homelessness? **Are food vans and sleeping bags enough?**

Poverty and lack of affordable housing are the key drivers of homelessness. The solution to homelessness is always a safe, affordable, permanent home. Some people, particularly people experiencing [chronic homelessness](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/homelessness/index.cfm?loadref=21), may need extra support to help them remain in housing.

Your challenge is to create a short video, up to 4 minutes long, that answers the question:

**Are food vans and sleeping bags enough?**

2. Work in a Group

We recommend you work in a group of 2 to 5 students. Entrants are not permitted to be members of more than one team. Each team can only submit one entry.

3. Before you start

It is very important that you have read the information about homelessness on this site.  This will ensure that the information in your project is accurate. You can find out more about homelessness at [www.mercyfoundation.com.au.](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/)

**Please read the Terms and Conditions for the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards 2016**, available on our website [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au). By submitting an Entry Form, students acknowledge that they have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions for this competition.

4. Entries

Download the entry form on our website [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au) or request one from [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au)

Large entries can be submitted using file share sites such as Google Drive or Dropbox. Share the files with the email [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au). You can upload your file to youtube, use the privacy setting and share it with youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au.

Alternatively, post or deliver your entry on a DVD or USB to: Mercy Foundation  
40 Rocklands Road, Wollstonecraft NSW 2065.

The Mercy Foundation will acknowledge all entries received. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have received your entry and entry form.

5. Closing Date

**The closing date is midnight on 24 June 2016.**

We will contact you to let you know we have received your entry. **It is important that you contact us if you do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of your entry.**

6. Prizes

**First Place**

$700 will be shared amongst the team AND  
$700  will be awarded to the winning team’s school\*

**Second Place**

$350 will be shared amongst the team AND  
$350 will be awarded to the team’s school\*

**Third Place**

$200 will be shared amongst the team AND  
$200 will be awarded to the team’s school\*

*\*The Mercy Foundation requests that the schools spend their prize money on social justice resources, and/or activities to promote social justice in your school, and/or a charity addressing social justice issues in Australia*

7. Judging

The **judging committee** comprises staff and Board members of the Mercy Foundation. Entries will be judged according to their:

* Content
* Accuracy of information
* Creativity
* Originality
* Effort
* Quality
* Overall visual presentation

8. Hints

When you are working on your video, please follow these hints:

* Please **don’t** use the term *the homeless*. It is easy to forget that we are talking about a group of vulnerable, disadvantaged people when we label them. Please use phrases like *people experiencing homelessness*.
* Please **don’t** use images from countries other than Australia
* Most people aren’t sleeping in parks or on the streets. Only 6% of people experiencing homelessness are rough sleepers (sleeping in streets and parks).
* The solution to homelessness is always safe, affordable, appropriate housing. Some people might need extra support services to stay housed.
* Homelessness should not exist in a wealthy country like Australia.

We want you to tell us, do **you** think food vans and sleeping bags are enough for people experiencing homelessness? Why?