

RIMU Insights

A series of speaker events on Auckland issues brought to you by the Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU).



Experiences of Rough Sleeping in Central Auckland

On the evening of 19 October 2014, Auckland City Mission counted 147 people sleeping rough within a three kilometre radius of the Sky Tower – a 116 per cent increase over 18 months. Sleeping rough is a complex social issue and there is increasing consensus amongst service providers, social scientists, policy makers and academics alike, that homelessness is of significant concern in New Zealand (Hodgetts et al., 2011; Leggatt-Cook, 2007).

This presentation is grounded in the results of recently completed multi-agency research on homelessness in central Auckland. The research revealed insights from people who had first-hand experience of sleeping rough as well as the thoughts and opinions of other members of the public. The presentation has three broad foci. First, we describe the research methodology which uses the principles of design to create effective solutions for difficult social problems. Second, we discuss the research results, drawing particular attention to the ways in which the lives of those who sleep rough intersect with others who use public spaces around central Auckland. Finally, we reflect on how the research results are being used by the Auckland Homeless Steering Group to better respond to the needs of those who sleep rough in central Auckland.

Date: Tuesday 30 June
Venue: Room WG 308,
WG Building, AUT,
55 Wellesley Street
Time: 1–2.30pm



Sophia Beaton
MA Maori Studies
BA Genetics

Sophia is a Community Safety Project Leader (Homelessness) at Auckland Council. She is of Kai Tahu and Kati Mamoe descent from Bluff/Rakiura. Sophia employs empathetic learning and understanding in her work and specialises in co-designed solutions with the community.



Trudie Cain
PhD Sociology

Trudie is a Social Researcher in the Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council. Her research increasingly intersects with policy and community development and she has a particular interest in community-led research practice.



Victoria Hearn
BA Social Work

Victoria is a Social Worker for the Housing and Crisis Response Team at Lifewise. She specialises in working with homeless youth and with participants of Te Kooti o Timatanga Hou – a specialised court for those who are currently experiencing homelessness.



Helen Robinson
BA Social Policy, LLB

Helen is the Homeless Clinical Team Leader at the Auckland City Mission. Born in Wellington she now calls Auckland home. She is committed to responding to the needs of those most vulnerable in our society, at both a structural and personal level.