

"THEY CAN'T GO BACK HOME"

Young people & homelessness in

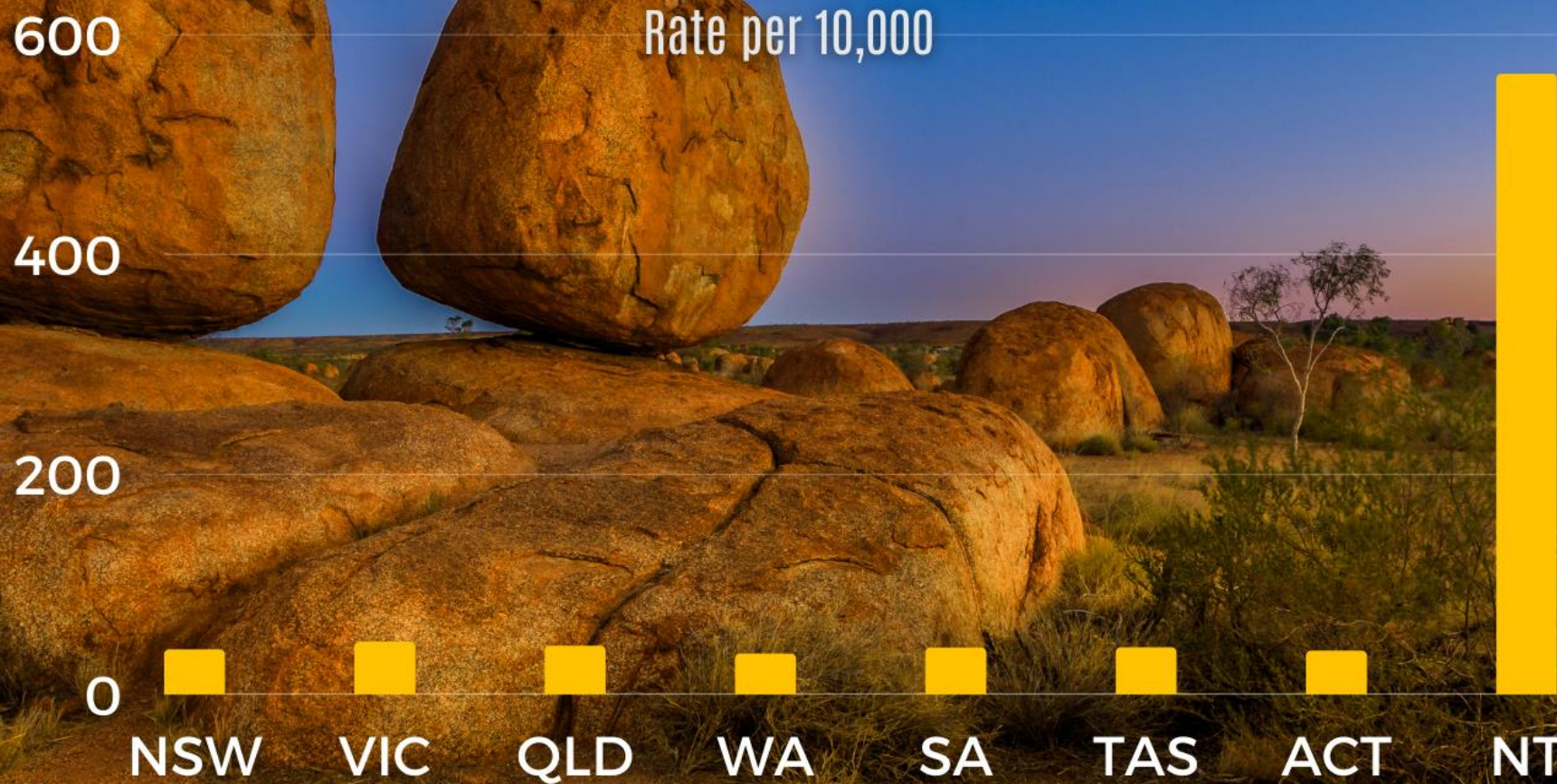


NATIONAL HOUSING
CONFERENCE 2023



Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

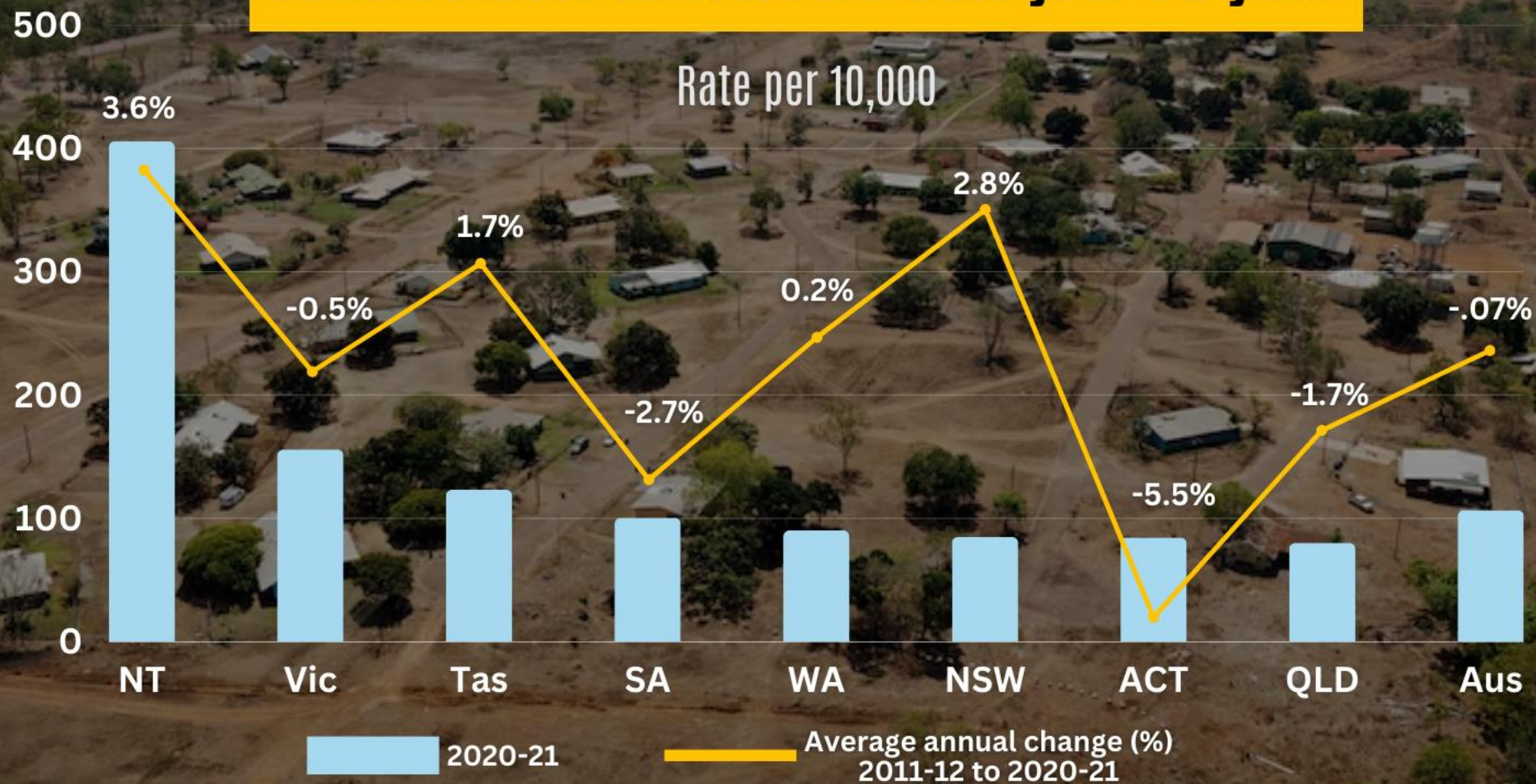
The Northern Territory has 12 times the national rate of homelessness.



Data source: 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2023.

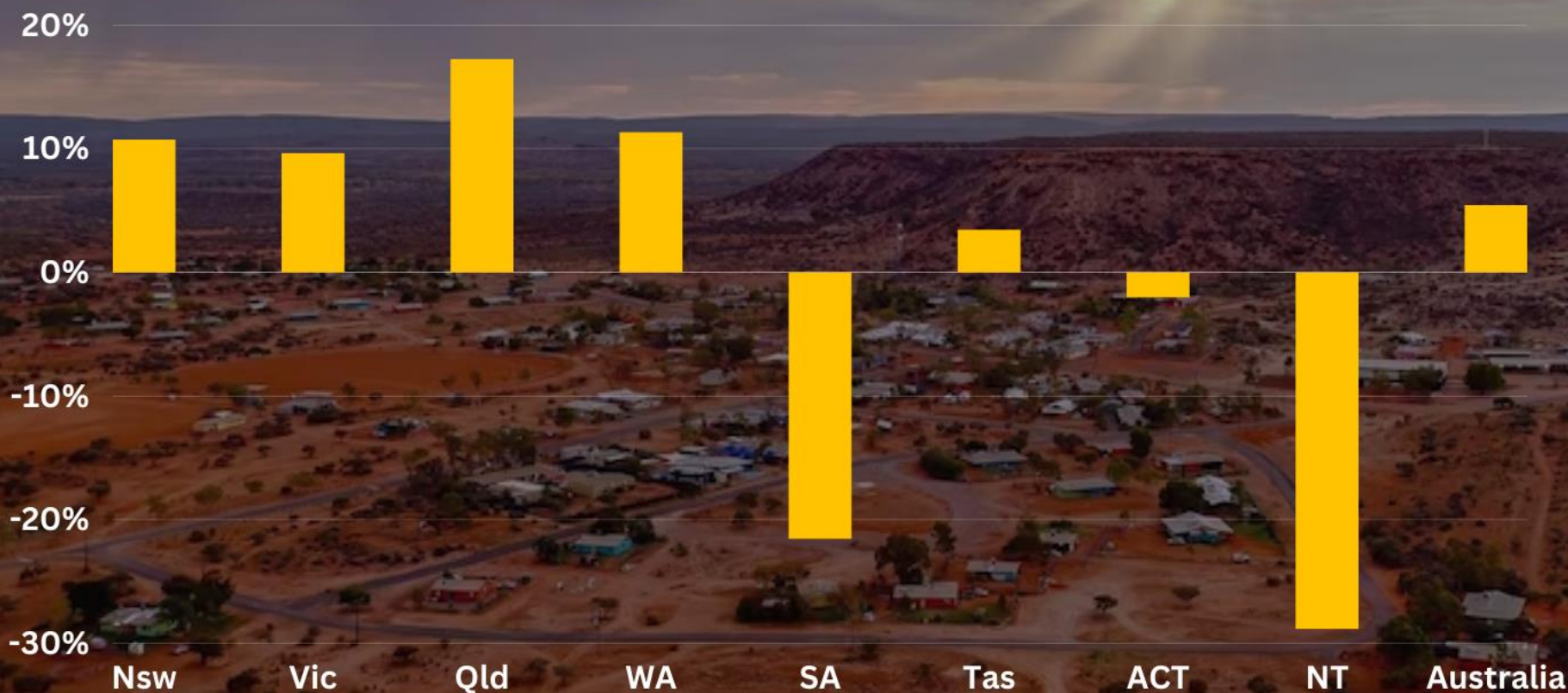
Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

In the Northern Territory, presentations to homelessness services increase year-on-year.



Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

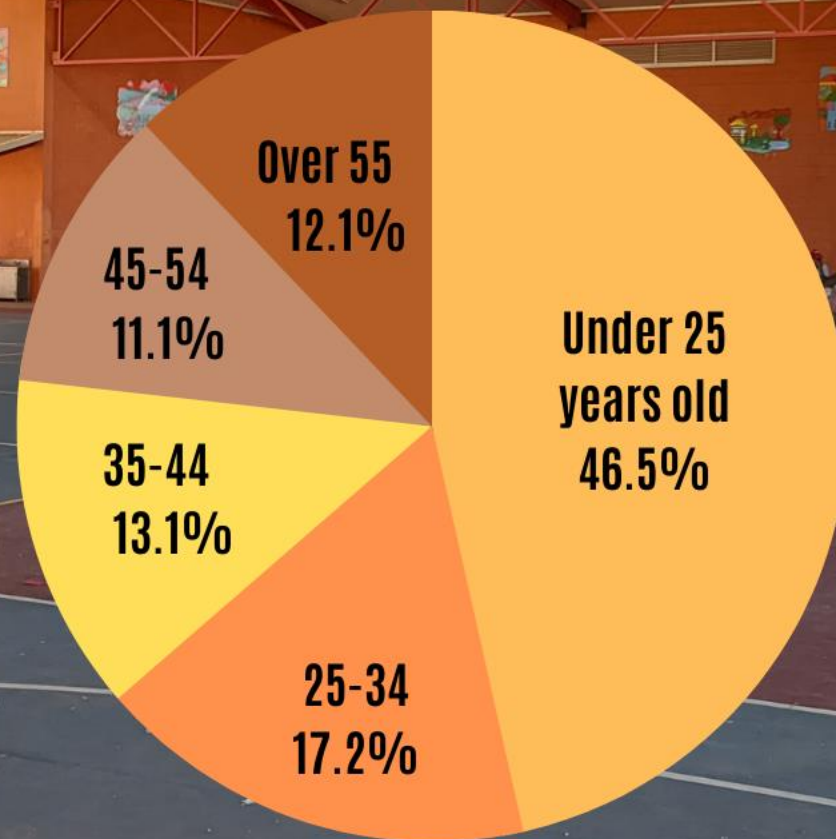
Social housing stock in the Northern Territory has decreased 30% in the last 20 years, yet the waitlist is growing.



Data source: Report on Government Services, Part G
Housing and Homelessness, various years

Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

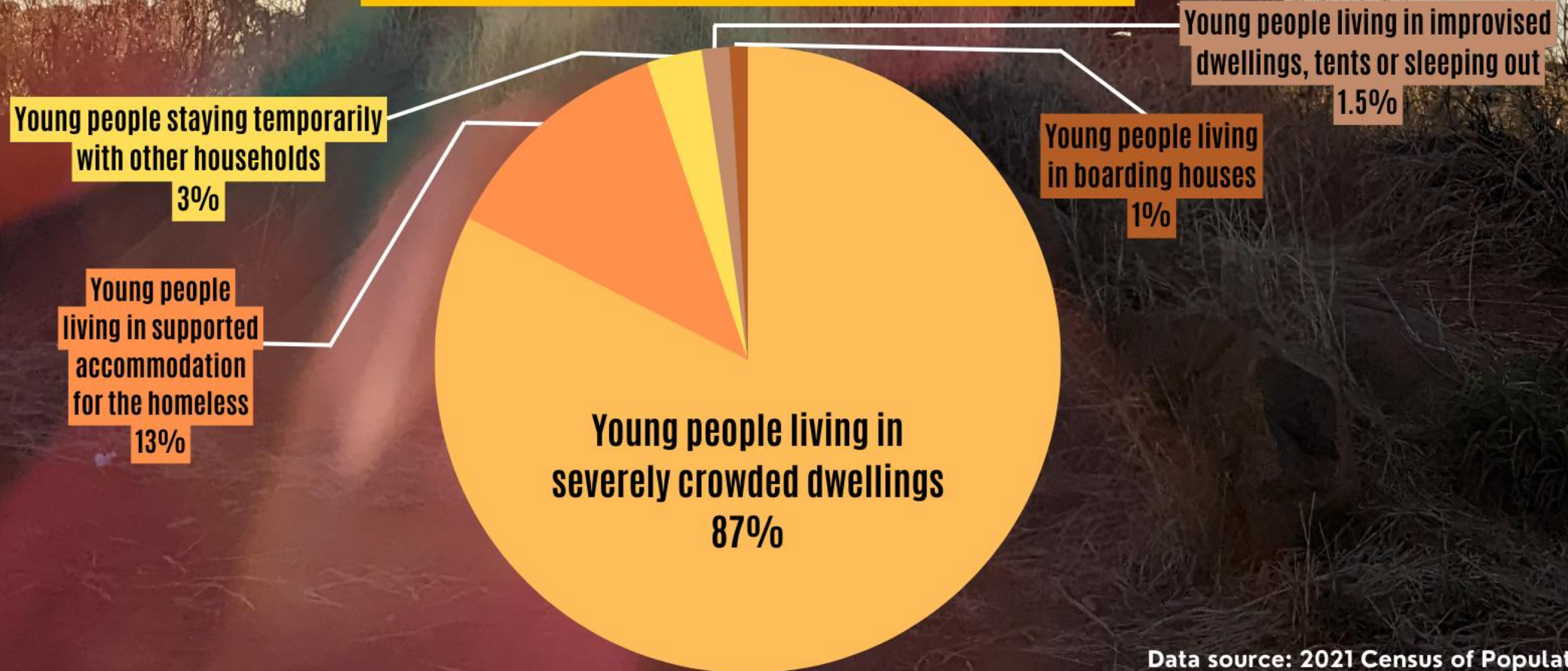
Children and young people make up almost 50% of the NT's homeless population



Data source: 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2023.

Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

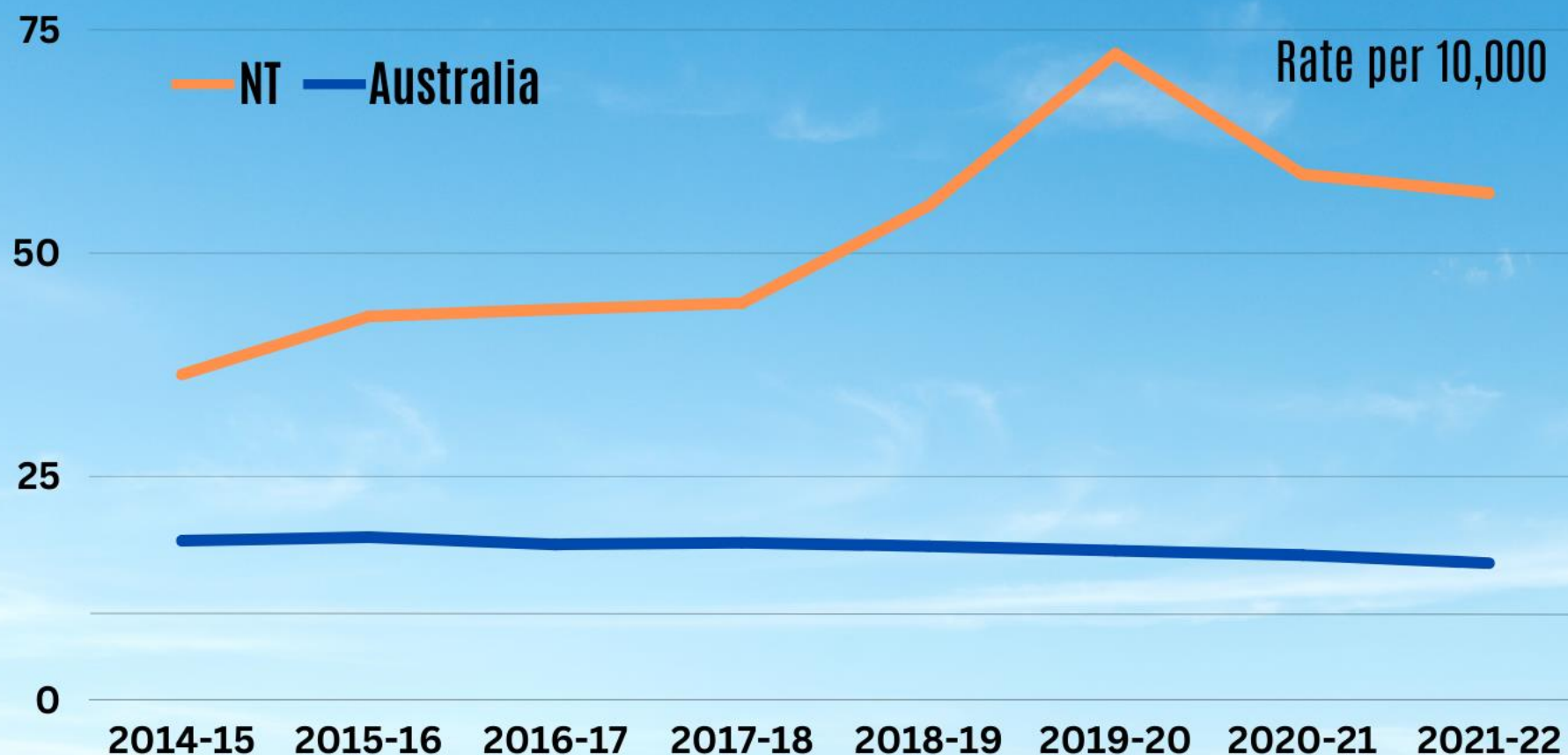
The majority of youth homelessness is due to severe crowding.



Data source: 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2023.

Homelessness in the Northern Territory:

The rate of young people presenting alone to SHS has risen 56% in the last eight years.



NT Geography and Homelessness Services

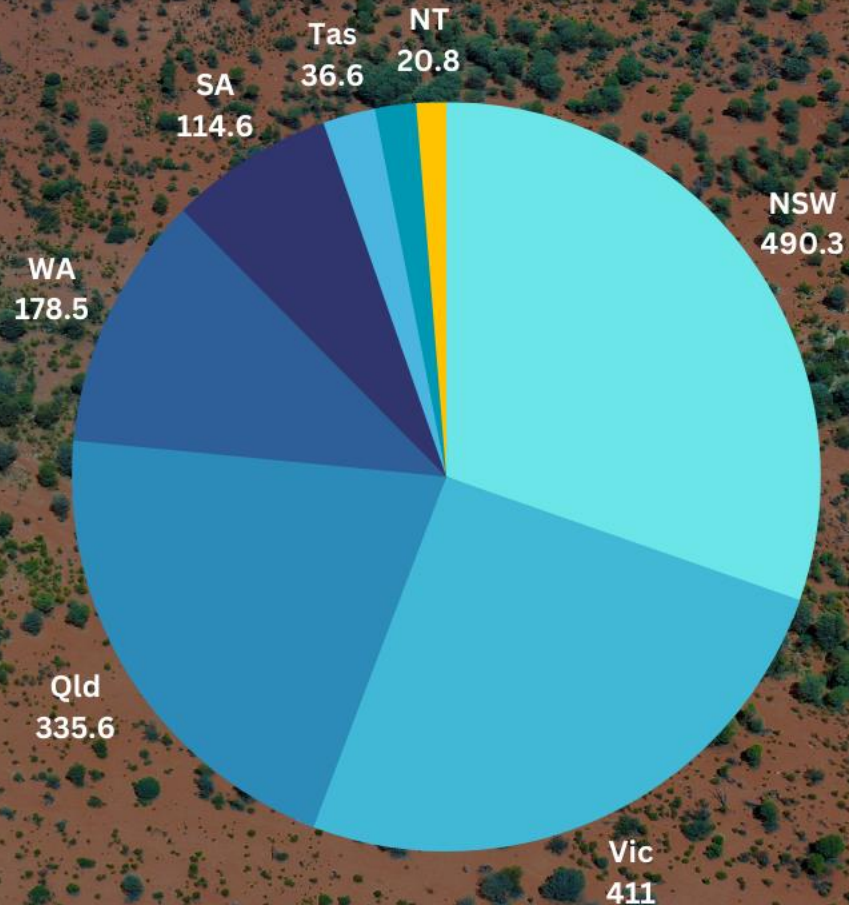
Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services:

- Crisis accommodation = **seven beds**
- Ampe Akweke = **five beds**
- Almost 6% of the youth population of Mparntwe experience homelessness.
- The Central Australian region is home to 14,000 young people.

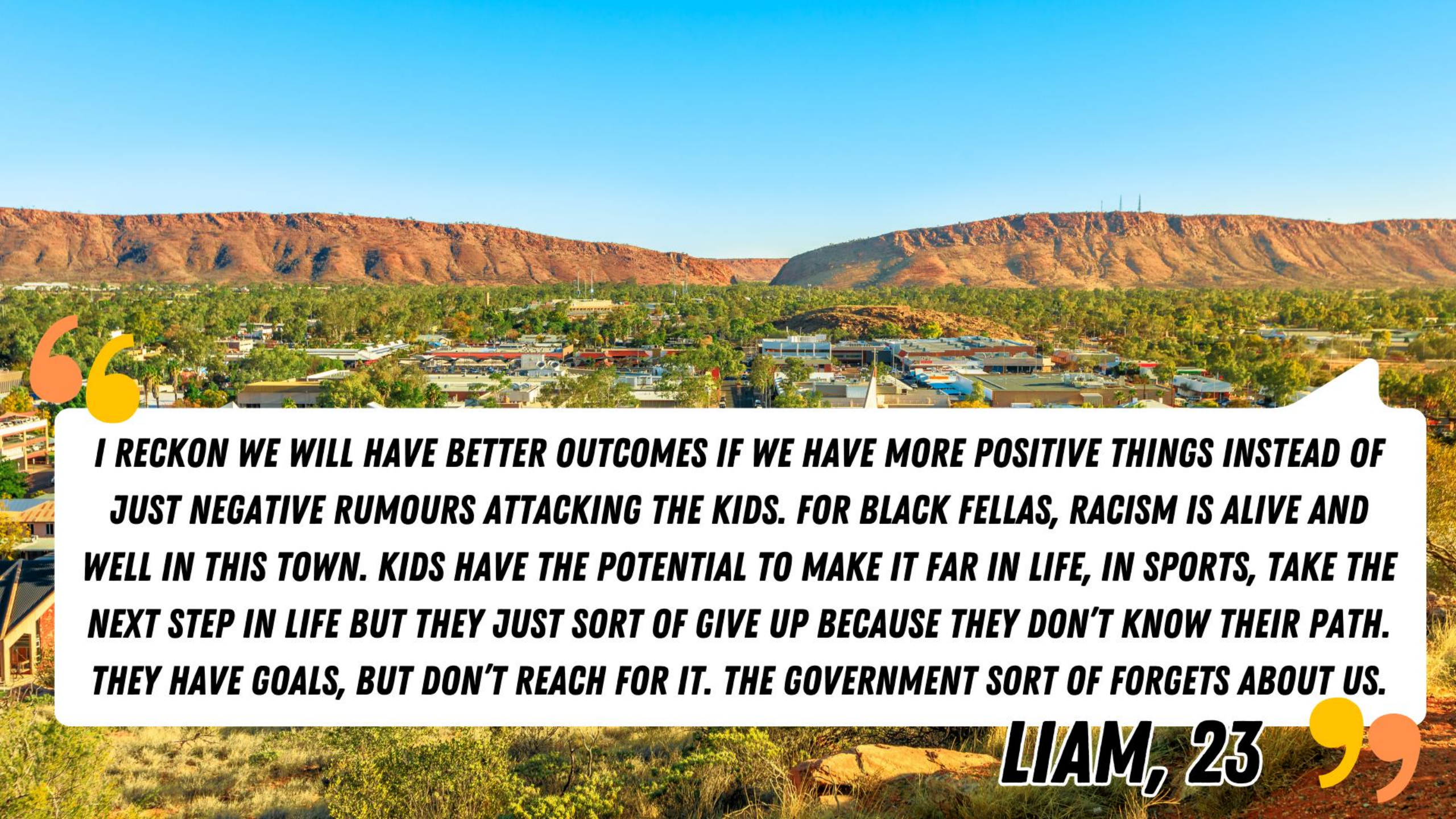


NHHA Allocations to States and Territories in 2022

NHHA Commonwealth Funding Allocation (\$ Million)



Despite having **12X** the national rate of homelessness, the NT receives only **1.3%** of NHHA funding.



I RECKON WE WILL HAVE BETTER OUTCOMES IF WE HAVE MORE POSITIVE THINGS INSTEAD OF JUST NEGATIVE RUMOURS ATTACKING THE KIDS. FOR BLACK FELLAS, RACISM IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS TOWN. KIDS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE IT FAR IN LIFE, IN SPORTS, TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN LIFE BUT THEY JUST SORT OF GIVE UP BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THEIR PATH. THEY HAVE GOALS, BUT DON'T REACH FOR IT. THE GOVERNMENT SORT OF FORGETS ABOUT US.

LIAM, 23

A wealth of attention:

THE AUSTRALIAN 🇦🇺

There you go. Alice Springs.

All artwork for this project was provided by the young people of Tangentyere Council after being asked: "What does home mean to you"

Why consult young people?


THERE ARE NO BIGGER EXPERTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEEDS THAN YOUNG PEOPLE. WE CAN'T EXPECT CHILDREN TO SIMPLY EXIST IN OUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT EMPOWERING THEM TO SHAPE IT AND HAVE INPUT INTO HOW IT WORKS.

“COME DOWN AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF. MAYBE SLEEP A NIGHT WHERE THEY’RE SLEEPING. EXPERIENCE WHAT THEY EXPERIENCE EVERY SINGLE DAY.”

CHLOE, 18

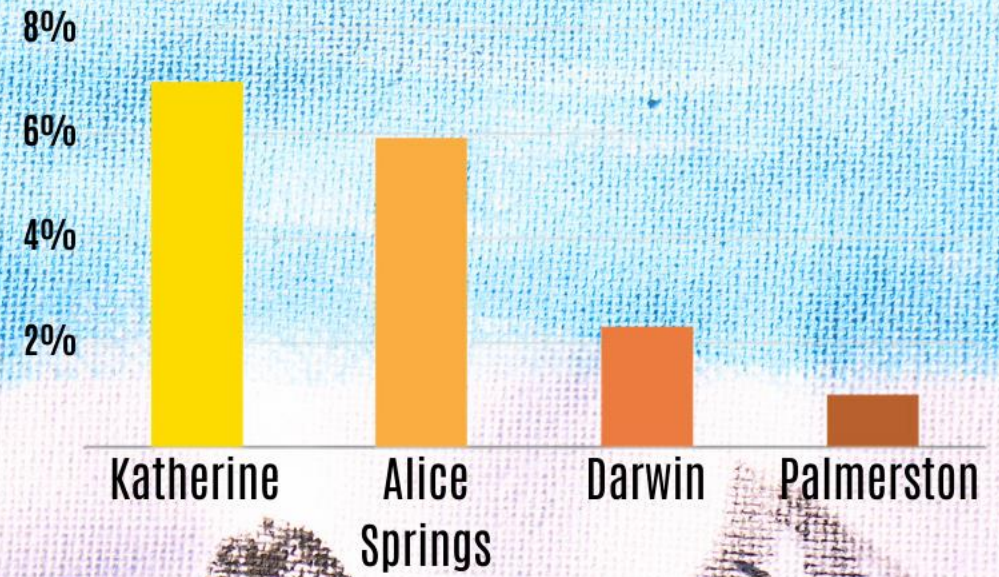
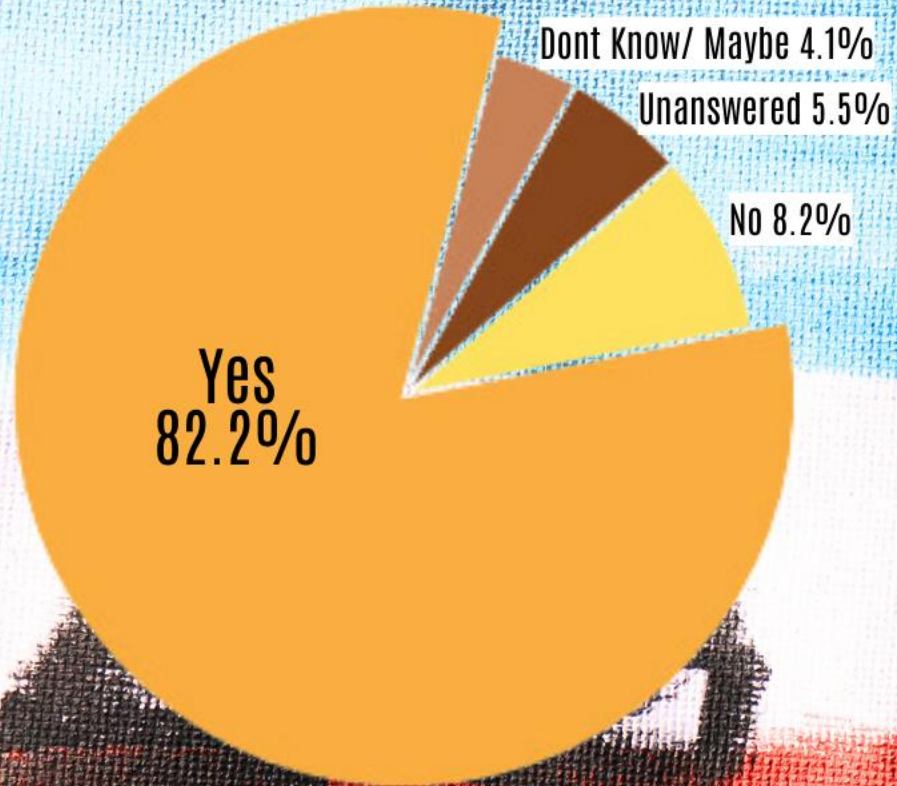
- Youth-led approach to project from beginning, thanks to project group of young people with lived experience.
- Project group guided us on every aspect of the consultations and their outputs.
- A steering committee of service providers provided support to the Project Group and help facilitate and direct.

The Project: Our Approach

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- We heard from over 150 young people in Alice Springs.
 - One-on-One and group interviews, short answer surveys & ‘world cafe’ style group workshops.
 - Youth drop-in centres, schools, youth detention, youth accommodation and residential AOD rehabilitation programs.

The Project: Our Approach

Do you think young people in Mparntwe are more at risk of homelessness than young people elsewhere?



Youth homelessness as percentage of youth population in enumerated urban areas in the NT

Data source: 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023.


The Project: Findings



MENTAL
HEALTH

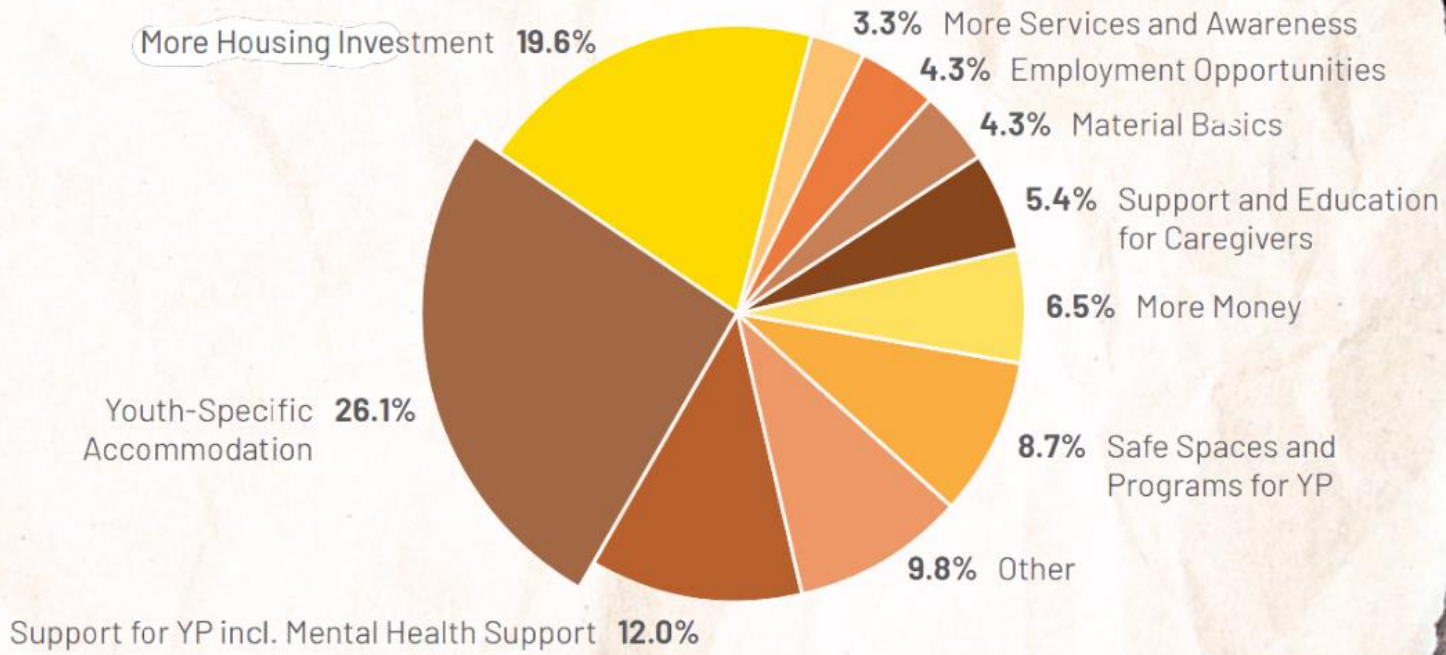
EDUCATION

SAFETY


harder for
girls and women

“I RECKON THERE’S A BIG MENTAL TOLL, CAUSE NOT KNOWING WHERE YOU’RE GOING TO SLEEP, THAT’S LIKE STRESSFUL. WE’RE KIDS! I THINK THE FACT THAT WE’RE LITERAL CHILDREN BEING PUT OUT LIKE TO I GUESS...SURVIVE WITHOUT ANY HELP, THAT’S HARD AS IT IS!”

SCOUT, 17



**"GIVE PEOPLE PROPER HOUSES, FLATS OR SOMETHING. THE HOUSES NOW, TOO MUCH PEOPLE, FULL UP. THERE'S JUST NOT ENOUGH AT THE MOMENT AND THE HOUSES THAT ARE THERE I DON'T THINK THEY ARE GOOD. WE NEED MORE HOUSES AND PEOPLE TO COME FIX THEM."
ANGUS, AGE UNKNOWN**

The Project: What would help?



**ACCOMMODATION FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE**



**AFFORDABLE &
IMPROVED HOUSING**



**FAMILY SUPPORTS &
PROGRAMS**



**HELP WITH
POVERTY**



**SAFE SPACES AND
PROGRAMS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE**

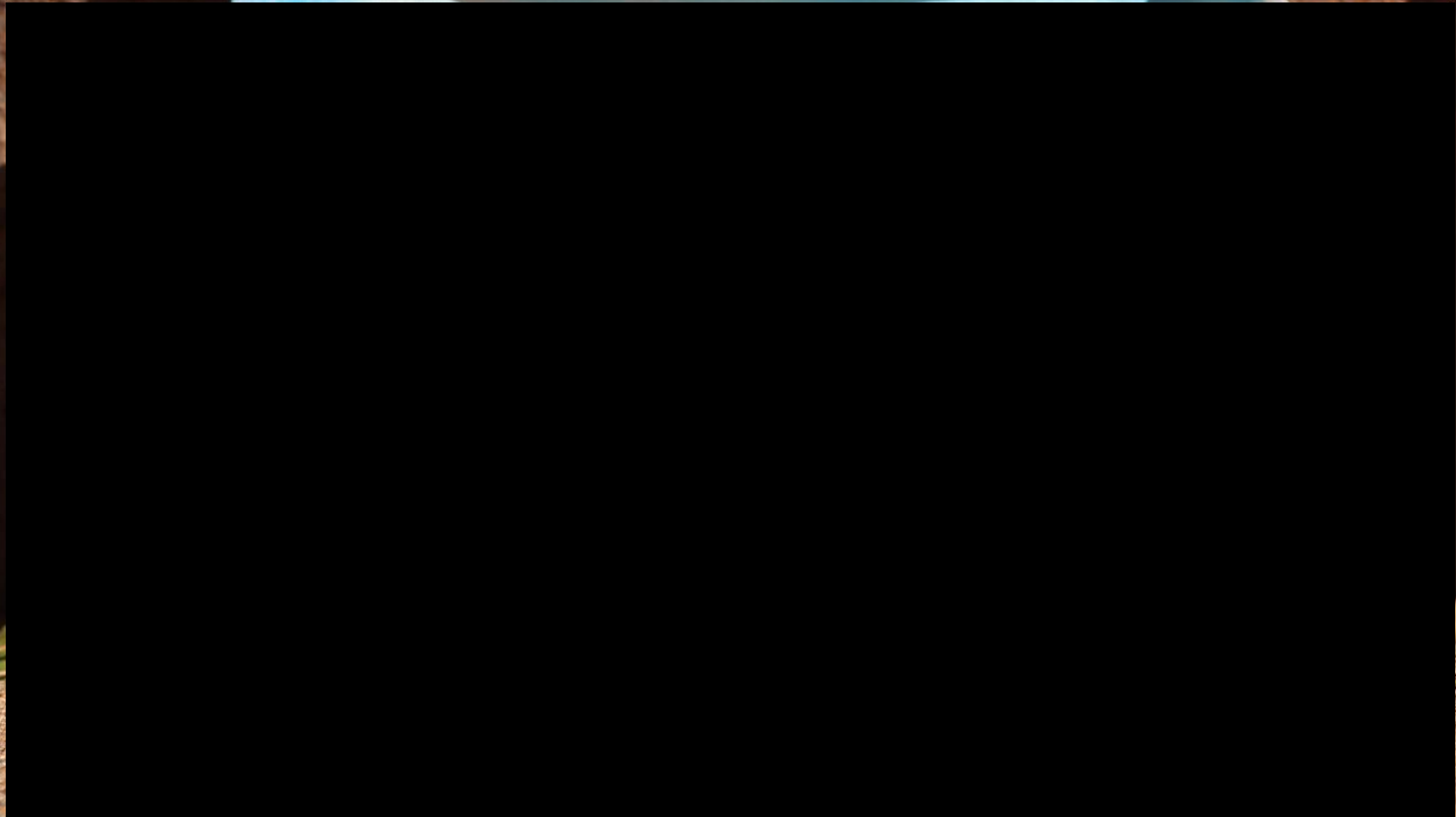


**SERVICES TO
COMMUNICATE
BETTER**

The Project: What would help?

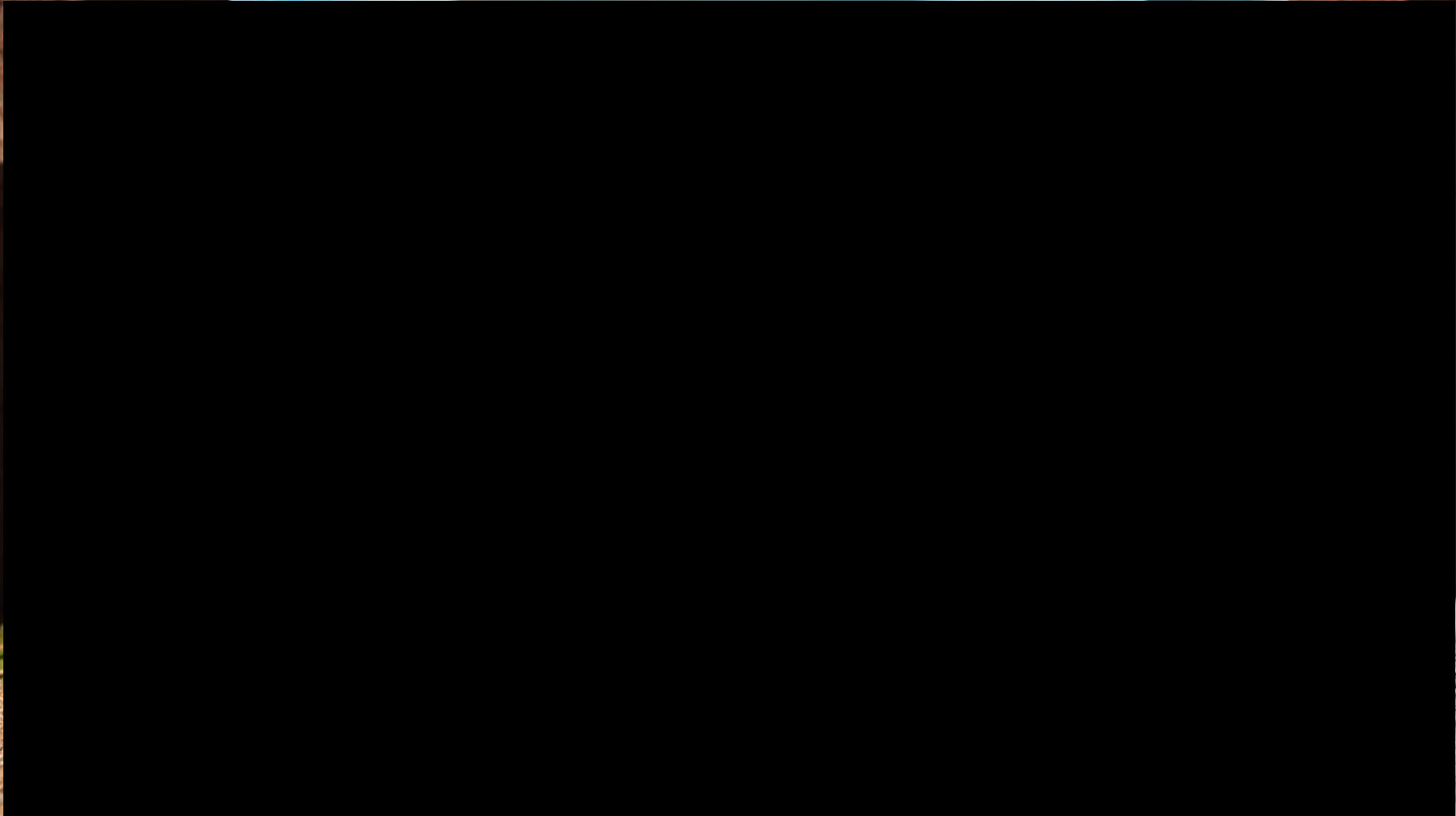
“LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF YOUNG FELLAS, DON'T FORCE THEM TO TALK.”

“A VIDEO TO SHOW WHAT WE DO IN LIFE. SEE HOW HARD IT IS AND THE STRUGGLE”



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Moving forward:

The right to adequate housing is more than a right to shelter; a home is a place where people can live in security, peace and dignity. Currently, many young people in the Northern Territory are not being afforded this human right.



Thank you



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Read the full report: ntshelter.org.au/latest-reports

Full video available at: youtube.com/@ntshelter