Paths to Homelessness

This activity will help foster a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding homelessness and its underlying causes.

Each student or pair should be provided with the “Homelessness in Australia” worksheet.

The activity begins by instructing students to identify and circle a challenge that has the potential to lead to homelessness, for example, "Being kicked out of home."

They are then encouraged to draw a line connecting this challenge to the underlying cause they believe may have contributed to the individual's displacement, such as "Family breakdown," and so on. It is recommended to repeat until approximately 6 to 8 challenges have been circled.

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Following the activity, facilitate a feedback and discussion session where students can share the causes and effects they have identified and provide explanations for their choices.

Questions may include:

- **What challenges related to homelessness did you choose to circle? Why?**
- **Can you identify any common themes or patterns among the challenges you circled?**
- **What factors did you connect to each challenge? How did you determine those connections?**
- **Were there any challenges that you found particularly hard to connect with their underlying causes? Why do you think that was the case?**
- **Did you notice any surprises or unexpected connections between challenges and their causes while doing this activity? Can you explain why they surprised you?**
- **How do the causes and effects you identified in the activity relate to the bigger problem of homelessness? Did they match what you already knew, or did you gain new insights?**
- **How has this activity increased your understanding and empathy for individuals who experience homelessness?**
- **In what ways can understanding the causes and effects of homelessness help us as a society tackle and prevent it?**
- **How can you use the knowledge gained from this activity to make a positive difference in your community or advocate for change?**

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Homelessness in Australia

Mental Illness

Poor conflict resolution skills

No personal car

Kicked out of home

Loss of self esteem

Time in prison

Poor personal hygiene

Family Breakdown

No social supports

No regular place of living

Poverty

Poor interview skills

Self- harming

No mailing address

No CV

Loss of confidence

Victim of Racism

Isolation

No trade

High Blood Pressure

No references

Depression

No access to a laundry

Police record

Drug dependence

Manic behaviour

Loss of contact with family

Physical abuse

Alcohol dependence

Neglect

Poor school attendance

Paranoia

Lack of bank account

Diabetes

Cannot read or write

Unemployment

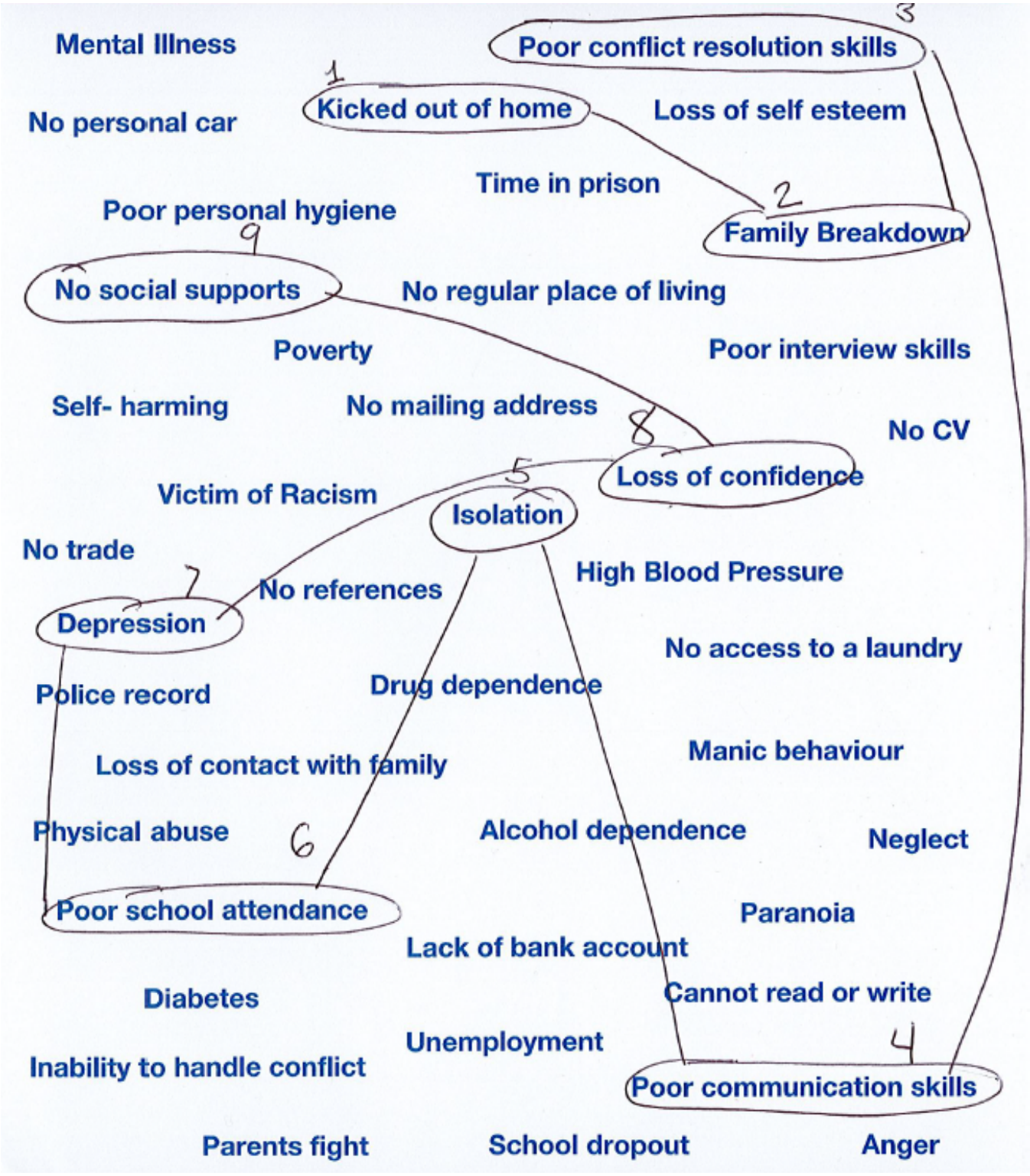
Inability to handle conflict

Poor communication skills

Parents fight

School dropout

Anger

Young Vinnies

Paths to Homelessness: Student Example