



PICTURE: MIKA WILLIAMS

■ Denzil Williams lives in Parow's streets.

Winter worry on the streets

'I skarrel to get by. It's the only thing I can do to survive'

MIKA WILLIAMS

Winter is upon us and many homeless people in Goodwood and Parow can be seen huddling together in shop entrances along Voortrekker Road to keep warm.

Denzil Williams, 26, who sleeps in front of a shop in Parow, speaks about his plight as he "skarrels" along Tallent Street.

Denzil was a teenager when he left his home in Elsie's River.

"I could not live the life I wanted to. I am a transvestite, and I didn't feel comfortable living at home, due to my sexual orientation."

Living on the streets is hard, he says, especially during winter. "We put cardboard, on the ground and cover ourselves with three blankets to keep warm at night."

Nobody messes with him on the streets, he says, but he had a run-in with the police recently when they found a makeshift weapon on him.



■ Joseph Morkel sleeps in this makeshift shelter on the streets of Goodwood.

"I told them it wasn't mine, and they just confiscated it and left me alone. I skarrel to get by. It's the only thing I can do to survive."

He says his friends help to keep him going "I don't like going to the shelters, even though living on the streets is difficult."

Denzil wanted to be a social worker when he was younger, but he says his dreams fell apart after he left home.

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