

Helping the homeless community

SHAHIED JOSEPH
SHAHIED.JOSEPH@INL.CO.ZA

The Covid-19 lockdown has seen more people forced to live on the streets and the number of the homeless on the Atlantic seaboard has increased.

Soupertroopers and Community Chest are two of several non-

profit organisations helping the homeless in the area.

They say there are insufficient beds and shelters, as well as medical aid for the homeless, whose numbers have surged due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

“At a shelter the client is asked to pay shelter fees. How is that even possible when the client does not have a job?” said

Soupertroopers field worker, Tasneem Hoosain-Fielies.

“The client still needs to try and heal and all they want is money. If a client gets in they allow them a place to stay for three months and after that they are back on the streets.”

The Haven Night Shelter confirmed that their rate per day is R15 for a homeless person.

The Western Cape government and the City of Cape Town said they are doing everything possible to assist the homeless.

Mayoral committee member for community services and health, Dr Zahid Badroodien, said the City has opened three Safe Spaces in the past three years that can accommodate 400 people, but the capacity has been

impacted by Covid-19 protocols.

“Our social development programme for street people includes: access to substance abuse rehabilitation, assistance with reintegration into society, obtaining identity documents and social grants and access to

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