



ILLAWARRA MERCURY

SINCE 1855

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

\$1.10 (GST incl)

SPECIAL REPORT OUR PUBLIC HOUSING SHAME



Picture: GREG TOTMAN

Drugs, sex, fear and squalor

Kirrili Miller sleeps on the floor in the lounge of this tiny unit. Nearby is her newborn baby. Her teenage daughter and the family dog sleep in one bedroom and her three-year-old in the other. Across the corridor, a prostitute plies her trade and drug dealers and their clients are scattered throughout the block of flats. This is just a taste of the squalid conditions almost 200 public housing tenants at Warrawong call home. A *Mercury* investigation has found that scores of children are exposed daily to violence, prostitution and drug and alcohol addiction - victims of the public housing crisis. "Almost everyone here has problems," one drug user told us. "But this is no place for kids to grow up, it's not even a good place for them to visit."

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TODAY
Fine

24°

TOMORROW
Fine

27°

JOBS CRISIS

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