Australia is a mosaic of people from different social & cultural backgrounds, all with very unique experiences. Australia has traditionally been perceived as an egalitarian society, with relatively classes with fluid movement between the classes that do exist. However, this is far from an accurate representation of Australian society. Great disparity is clearly evident between various social groups within Australia, particularly in relation to their access to socially valued resources. This access is affected by discrimination, socio-economic status & technology. Overwhelmingly it is seen that the minorities of Australian society, such as the homeless youth, are restricted in their access to society's resources.

The minorities of society, particularly the homeless youth, are discriminated against & this adversely affects their access to socially valued resources. Wider society often views such groups with great negativity & is thus unwilling to help them improve their situation. By their very predicament the homeless youth already have a diminished access to society's resources, yet the discrimination they face only worsens this. Some members of society have been known to consider that welfare organisations should cease assisting the homeless as it
only makes the matter worse or attracts them to their area. For this
it is evident that the discrimination imposed on this social group
adversely affects their access to resources. They are also discriminated
against by institutions, even those designed to help them. Certain
provides financial assistance to those unable to attain an adequate
income, yet homeless people by their very situation are often unable
to receive such payments. To receive these payments recipients are
required to have a bank account & to set up a bank account
they are required to provide a address. Thus they are unable to
access the financial resources of society, which are required to access
as may more, such as housing. The young homeless particularly face
discrimination in attempting to access society's resources. There is
an unnecessary youth unemployment rate, as the youth labor market
contracts, this restricts their access to employment, diminishing access to
financial resources. Those who do have a job are paid lower rates.
For those unable to obtain a job, financial payments from welfare agencies,
are less substantial than those available for adults; this discrimination
against the group in access financial resources. Access to shelter for the
homeless youth is also difficult to secure, thus often trapping them in a
state of chronic homelessness. The face discrimination in the private
rental market because of their age and are unable to obtain public

braces because of their age. Overall, the discrimination faced by
the homeless youth, as similarly other minorities of society, greatly
institutionalised their lack of access to valued resources, including
income and shelter.

Socio-economic status is the main determinant in accessing resources in
society. A cycle can also be seen in socio-economic status and
access to resources. One who has a higher socio-economic status
has a greater access to society’s resources since they have greater
power to attract these resources towards them. On the other hand
one without socio-economic status has a diminished access to society’s
resources and also to the ability to improve their socio-economic
status. Thus, they can become trapped in a cycle of disadvantage
and restricted access to resources. For example, occupation is a
key determinant in socio-economic status, which in turn is influenced
greatly by educational attainment, which is also highly contributed to
by socio-economic status, as it determines the quality and length of
one’s education. Thus socio-economic status can also institutionalise
the disadvantaged’s access to society’s resources.
In Australian socio-economic status is reliant on acquired attributes if not achieved attributes. Thus those already in possession of access to socially valued resources, while those without endure many barriers in achieving the attributes necessary to acquire these resources.

For the homeless, technology has both a positive and negative impact on their access to resources. Technology such as the telephone allows the homeless to access assistance & locate shelters in refuges. However, the effectiveness of this technology is limited; the homeless access to socially valued resources can be diminished by their lack of access to a phone or to money to use a phone. Technology can also have a negative impact as it is increasingly integrated into society. For example, without technology such as a computer, individuals may have limited access to socially valued resources, such as networking. Again one's lack of technology affects their lack of resources, so thus the disadvantaged become trapped in a cycle caused by their own situation.

In conclusion, technology, discrimination & socio-economic status all have a significant effect on one's access to socially valued resources. For those who are disadvantaged this signifies a continued lack of access.
to the socially valued resources simply by virtue of their own situation. This demonstrates the seriousness of the extent of inequality in Australia today, by continually denying those in need access to the resources vital for improving their situation. While those less fortunate are continually denied access to resources by technology, discrimination.

In such economic status, the wealthy continue to be able to access these resources in abundance with no barriers, and at the same time restrict the access of others to these vital resources.