

Young Tasmanians passionate about creating a future without homelessness

A Report released today shows that young Tasmanians are concerned about the impact of homelessness in the community, and want to take action to prevent it.

Young people, aged 12-25 years, contributed their ideas and solutions on ways to improve access to affordable housing and reduce homelessness, through a *Housing and Homelessness* statewide forum and survey. The findings from this consultation have been developed into a report.

The Report found that young Tasmanians are most concerned about being able to access housing they can afford. Over 70% of young people identified the cost of buying a house as a potential challenge they would face when finding somewhere to live. Over 55% of young people were also concerned about having enough money to live independently, paying bills and the cost of rent.

Joanna Siejka, CEO of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), said, "We found that young people are very concerned from an early age about affordable housing, buying their first homes and the high rates of youth homelessness in Australia."

"Young people want to be more informed and want to take action on these issues, and we were overwhelmed by the passion young people have for contributing to the solutions to these wicked problems," said Ms Siejka.

It is estimated that there are 26,000 young people who are homeless each night in Australia although this is likely to be much higher, with family breakdown, family violence and access to affordable housing contributing to the complexity of these issues.

The TYF *Housing and Homelessness* Report Launch will be held at The Long Room, Parliament House from 1.15pm to 2.00pm. Young people will share their experiences of homelessness, and their ideas and solutions for housing and homelessness. Over 170 young people aged 12 to 25 from diverse backgrounds from all regions of Tasmania participated in the consultation process for the report.

TYF is an initiative of the Youth Network of Tasmania and is funded by Communities, Sport and Recreation through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

For further information:

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TYF Housing and Homelessness Report Key Findings

Finding 1: Feeling safe and comfortable in a home is important to young people and they see people, including family, as central to this

Finding 2: Young people see having a home as a foundation for all other aspects of life

Finding 3: Young people understand the complex range of factors that can contribute to the prevention and early intervention of homelessness

Finding 4: Young people want more awareness in the community about housing and homelessness issues

Finding 5: Young people are concerned about the impact of negative stereotypes on their ability to gain employment and housing

Finding 6: Young people want better promotion and communication of the role of support services and how they can be accessed

Finding 7: Young people are concerned about their ability to enter the rental and housing market due to affordability, income and access issues

Finding 8: Young people want to learn budgeting skills at school to prepare them for living independently and into the future

Finding 9: Young people feel more prepared if they need to seek help for housing or homelessness issues after participating in the Forum

Finding 10: Young people are thinking about where they would like to live in the future from an early age and have ideas about this

Finding 11: Young people are concerned about the cost of housing and having an income to afford appropriate housing

Finding 12: Young people are most likely to seek help from their friends and family for housing and homelessness issues

Finding 13: Young people were most likely to say they would seek help from a housing service, social worker, youth worker or counsellor if they knew someone experiencing homelessness who needed support

Finding 14: Young people are aware of the complex issues that can contribute to a person experiencing homelessness

Finding 15: One in two young people know someone who has experienced homelessness

Finding 16: Young people want more access to affordable housing to make it easier for them to enter the housing and rental market

Finding 17: Young people want more shelters to support young people experiencing homelessness

Finding 18: Young people recognise having a plan, which considers finances and budget, is important for finding appropriate and affordable housing in the future