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MEDIA RELEASE

17 March 2019

‘Youth Peak calls for a national plan to end youth homelessness’

YNOT is calling for action to end youth homelessness on Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) and is pleased to announce the 2019 YHMD Ambassador for Tasmania, Matt Newell. Mr. Newell is a local radio personality from 7HOFM and former contestant on My Kitchen Rules (MKR).

YHMD is a national online campaign, held annually, to raise awareness of youth homelessness amongst decision makers and the wider community. The campaign aims to break down the stereotypes and stigma attached to the experience of youth homelessness.

In Australia, there are 28,000 young people aged 12 to 25 who are homeless on any given night, representing an alarming 42% of our total homeless population. Despite the large numbers of young people experiencing homelessness, there is no national plan to address youth homelessness in Australia.

Youth Network of Tasmania CEO Tania Hunt said “We need to address the systemic issues that drive and exacerbate youth homelessness and we urge political leaders to commit to a national plan to end youth homelessness.”

“There is no strategic or long term approach to addressing this national crisis affecting our young people.” Ms Hunt said.

Young people continue to be disproportionately represented in the homelessness population in Tasmania.

YNOT welcomed the recent release of the Tasmanian Governments Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023 and is pleased to see a commitment to improving outcomes for young Tasmanians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. However, some young people are being left behind.

“It’s encouraging to see that a Taskforce will be established to prioritise care for children under 16, who cannot live at home and are not in out of home care, but action must be taken swiftly to respond to this highly vulnerable cohort.” Ms. Hunt said.

“Winter is just around the corner and these children do not have access to care, income or housing. They are largely dependent on the support of adults in their communities.”

70% of young people experiencing homelessness left home to escape family violence or family breakdown.

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth



The vast majority of young people experiencing homelessness are hidden from view and are couch surfing, living in overcrowded dwellings, in shelters or sleeping rough.

“Youth homelessness is an experience not an identity.” Ms Hunt said.

END.

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For Further information

www.facebook.com/yhmday

www.youthhomelessnessmatters.info

#YHMD2019 on social media

CAMPAIGN ASKS.

#1 LIKE.

ON FACEBOOK

Like the official Youth Homelessness Matters Day Facebook page and have young people’s stories and campaign updates delivered right to your newsfeed – facebook.com/yhmd

ON TWITTER

Follow the #YHMD2019 conversation, favourite and re-tweet.

ON INSTAGRAM

Follow #YHMD2019 on Instagram and like pictures shared by our supporters

#2 SHARE.

ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Share stories, statistics, the campaign countdown, information, and our petition <http://chnng.it/Rb62dkGX9q> with your Facebook friends and help us break the stereotypes that are associated with youth homelessness. Don’t forget to use #YHMD2019.

#3 ACT.

JOIN OUR PETITION

This Youth Homelessness Matters Day we are calling on our political leaders to commit to a national plan to tackle youth homelessness.

Add your voice to the chorus demanding a national plan to end youth homelessness.

<http://chnng.it/Rb62dkGX9q>