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MEDIA RELEASE

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YNOT Welcomes Investment in Youth Supported Accommodation Facilities

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) welcomes the release of the Tasmanian Governments Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023 today.

It is pleasing to see that the Tasmanian Government has committed to improving outcomes for young Tasmanians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Tania Hunt, CEO of YNOT said "It is encouraging to see that supported accommodation for young people has been identified as a key priority area in the action plan."

This includes the construction of purpose built Youth Foyers in Burnie and Hobart for young people aged 16-25, the expansion of Thyne House in Launceston and a new Youth at Risk Centre in Launceston for young people under 16 years of age.

Ms Hunt said that whilst it's pleasing to see a range of actions targeted at young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the State more needs to be done to effectively respond to the needs of children under the age of 16 who are homeless and alone.

"We welcome the construction of a new youth at risk centre in Launceston however; there are children under the age of 16 who require medium and long-term supported accommodation options. These children are not in out of home care and are unable to return home." Ms Hunt said.

YNOT has been a strong advocate for the introduction of a policy response and a continuum of services to address the care and accommodation needs of unaccompanied homeless children under 16 years of age in Tasmania.

Ms Hunt welcomes the establishment of a taskforce to respond to this highly vulnerable cohort however stressed the importance of taking action on this issue in a timely manner.

YNOT looks forward to working with the Tasmanian Government, community sector and young people to address this issue.

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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth

