

Thursday 13th August 2015

Family Violence Action Plan welcomed

Shelter Tasmania, the peak body for housing and homelessness services, has welcomed the State Government's Family Violence Action Plan, launched today. "The Government is to be congratulated for recognising housing and support as critical elements of a holistic response to family violence. We cannot overstate the importance of safe, affordable housing in tackling this issue", Shelter Tas Executive Officer Pattie Chugg said.

Of the 1,579 people identified as homeless in the ABS 2011 Census, 26% cited domestic violence and relationship issues as their reasons for seeking support. "Funding for crisis and longer term housing is an essential part of the solution for these families to ensure their safety and allow them to rebuild their lives", Ms Chugg said.

The Government has announced \$2 million of capital funding for crisis accommodation providers, which will increase their capacity to provide safe housing for more women fleeing domestic violence. "We are pleased that the Government has recognised housing and support needs as critical elements of addressing family violence, which is a major cause of homelessness", Ms Chugg said.

"Long term accommodation across the State is also a critical need. The announcement of \$2.4 million to rapidly rehouse families in secure, supported accommodation under a head leasing model is very welcome. This is a good first step to address the shortfall in emergency and long term accommodation across the state", Ms Chugg said.

For more information, please contact:

Pattie Chugg

Executive Officer, Shelter Tasmania

(03) 6224 5488

0419 536 100

eo@shelertas.org.au