



MEDIA RELEASE

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Shelter welcomes continued investment in affordable housing and homelessness

Shelter Tasmania welcomes the State Government's ongoing commitment to measures to decrease homelessness and to improve access to affordable housing for low-income Tasmanians. This includes the State Government's funding commitment to the recently extended National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, and to Better Housing Futures which will see the continuation of stock transfer from public housing to the community housing sector. We are also pleased that Tasmania will continue to participate in the National Rental Assistance Scheme in 2013-14 which adds to the supply of much need affordable rental properties.

Shelter Tasmania fully supports the commitment of \$10.4 million for the Trinity Hill supported youth accommodation in the 2013-14 State Budget.

"Shelter and the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group anticipate that Trinity Hill will greatly benefit young people in the south of the state who are at risk of, and experiencing, homelessness and its associated detrimental effects by providing 46 independent units for young people and 16 units for young people with disabilities".

"Youth comprise 55% of the homeless population, and currently it is extremely difficult for them to secure long-term housing, particularly those in the age group of 15-17 year olds who are unable to live at home" said Shelter Executive Officer Pattie Chugg.

"Every Tasmanian has the right to safe, affordable and sustainable housing. As recent reports have shown, the cost of the majority of private rental is well beyond the reach of those on income support payments" Ms Chugg said.

Shelter cautions, however, that for housing and homelessness services like Trinity Hill and not-for-profit sector community housing programs to be sustainable there must be an increase in the indexation of DHHS-funded grants above the current rate of 2.25 per cent. "At only 2.25 per cent indexation many housing and homelessness support services will have to make difficult decisions about where to make savings, and this severely limits their capacity to provide adequate support to people in need" Ms Chugg said.

Shelter Tasmania looks forward to working closely with the State Government in the development of Trinity Hill and the continued transfer of public housing stock to the not-for-profit sector.

For further information contact Pattie Chugg

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Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness Services across Tasmania www.shelertas.org.au