



MEDIA RELEASE

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Shelter Tasmania welcomes today's announcement of more accommodation and support for young people in Hobart

Shelter Tasmania has long advocated for more permanent and affordable housing options for disadvantaged young people and welcomes today's announcement of the Trinity Hill redevelopment.

Currently in Tasmania it is extremely difficult for young people to secure long-term housing, particularly those in the age group of 15-17 year olds who are unable to return home and have no other housing options.

"This development will be an excellent opportunity for the Government to provide stable housing options for those disadvantaged young people who are most in need." said Shelter Tasmania's Executive Officer Pattie Chugg.

The ABS 2011 Census estimated that of the 1,145 homeless people in Tasmania, 635 of those people are under 25. Homelessness services believe that this is an undercount as many young people are categorised as being in secondary homelessness, whether that be 'couch surfing', youth refuges or emergency accommodation.

"Currently if a young person under 18 is homeless there are extremely limited housing options for them. There are very few social housing options and it's exceedingly difficult for them to access the private rental market due to their age and low income. If they are unable to return to the family home, often their only option is to 'couch surf' or access short term accommodation in shelters. There are numerous cases where this cycle has continued and young people fall through the gaps. So we welcome a purpose built housing option for young people who really need it" said Pattie Chugg.

Shelter Tasmania recently established the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homeless Group (TYHHG) in response to ongoing concerns by members about the issues facing young homeless Tasmanians and the consequent impact on services. TYHHG's over-arching purpose is to work collaboratively to ensure all young people have access to appropriate housing and support options across Tasmania.

Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Not for Profit Housing and Homeless Services across Tasmania. For more information see www.sheltertass.org.au

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