



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 4th August 2014

Homeless Persons' Week 2014

Homelessness causes devastating personal harm, as well as significant impacts on society and costs to government. Around the country this week, community members, not-for-profit organisations and government will unite to raise awareness of these issues for Homeless Persons' Week 2014.

Shelter Tasmania is the State's peak body for housing and homelessness, and Executive Officer Pattie Chugg highlighted the importance of Homeless Persons' Week and emphasised the dedication and commitment of those working to prevent and reduce homelessness.

'National Homeless Persons' Week is important as it focusses attention on all the great work that Tasmanian homelessness services undertake on a daily basis to alleviate homelessness, which benefits both individuals and the wider Tasmanian community', Ms Chugg said.

'People often think that here in Tasmania homelessness does not exist, or only for a few. The costs go unseen to those who are not experiencing homelessness themselves. The facts show a different story, at the last national census, 1,579 people in Tasmania counted as homeless and 39% were under 25 years old', Ms Chugg said.

Evidence shows the importance and cost effectiveness of providing affordable, permanent housing and appropriate support to people who are at risk or homeless. Homelessness services significantly reduce costs to the broader community – including health, justice, welfare payments and children going into care. 'The cost of homelessness is too important to ignore, and the various events happening around Tasmania this week will give people the opportunity to learn more about the homelessness sector', Ms Chugg said.

Homeless Persons' Week events around Tasmania:

Monday 4th August

- Tasmanian Launch of HPW – Youthcare, 22 Springvale Ave Moonah (Anglicare), at 2.00pm. Contact k.fitzallen@angliacre-tas.org.au
- HELP (Homelessness; End Loneliness and Poverty) Film Festival - CMAX Cinema Devonport, from 6.30pm. Contact tania@yaff.com.au

Tuesday 5th August

- Hobart Street Soccer- Aurora Sports Stadium New Town, from 1.30-3.30pm. Contact Rob at tassoccer@bigissue.org.au or 0408 544 717
- Anglicare's Homelessness Community BBQ - Franklin Square, Hobart, from 11.00am-2.00pm. Contact Emily on 1800 243 232 or 0408 536 192

Thursday 7th August

- Magnolia Place Women's Shelter Information Stall – Centro Meadow Mews, Kings Meadows.

Colony 47 will be distributing 'survival packs' (toiletries, food, contact information for services etc.) from their offices at 181 Collins Street, Hobart all this week.

For further information contact:

Pattie Chugg, Executive Officer - Shelter Tasmania on 0419 536 100 or

Andy Witt, Chair – Shelter Tasmania on 0400 063 436.