

MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2015

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY

Anglicare NT is supporting 'Youth Homelessness Matters Day' to raise awareness of the 26,000 young people across Australia who have no place to go.

In the Northern Territory there are approximately 3947 young people aged between 12 – 24 years who are homeless (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012) and the majority of these young people are living in overcrowded accommodation or couch surfing.

"Youth Homelessness Matters Day is a national campaign which aims to raise public awareness about youth homelessness and celebrate the resilience of young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Australia", said Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh.

In 2015, National Youth Homelessness Matters Day will be held during National Youth Week on Wednesday 15th April. Events will be held in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

In Darwin Anglicare NT is running Youth Homelessness Matters Day Couch Surfing Races. The event will be held Wednesday, 15 April 2015 from 10.30am – 3pm in the Parliament House Carpark, Bennett Street Darwin.

16 teams are registered for Couch Surfing Races and young people have been decorating couches, getting ready to battle it out for the race of the year. Youth services and schools in the Darwin, Palmerston and rural regions will come together on this day for a fun and funky celebration for youth, to promote the challenges facing young people who are at risk of or who are homeless, and to provide information on services available to support these young people.

Anglicare NT in partnership with the City of Darwin and a number of other community organisations and local schools have been organising this event and are highlighting three key messages in relation to Youth Homelessness Matters Day campaign:

1. homelessness is not just about rough sleeping, many young people experience homelessness by couch surfing or living in severely overcrowded conditions
2. young people need services to support them when they are experiencing homelessness – see how you can help a local service today
3. young people need to be given a fair go when applying for rental properties (we were all young once and needed a chance)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DETAILS OF THE COUCH SURFING EVENT -

Contact Jemma Wood or Bree Steen at Anglicare NT on 08 8985 0000 or visit <http://www.anglicare-nt.org.au/>

NOTES FOR EDITOR

Media welcome to photograph / film Couch Surfing Races that commence at Parliament House Carpark at 12pm Wednesday 15 April 2015.

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange interviews with Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh regarding Youth Homelessness please contact Anglicare NT Communications.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Ashley Perez – 0447 945 117