

MEDIA RELEASE

18 APRIL 2019

HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE HIT HARD BY NT FUNDING CUTS

Yesterday was Youth Homelessness Matters Day, a national day to raise awareness about youth homelessness in Australia. A remarkable statistic and of concern to Territorians is that despite only having 1% of the nation's youth, we have 13% of the nation's homeless youth.

Across Australia over 28,000 young people are homeless with around 4000 in the Northern Territory. Unemployment and underemployment is another concern for young people. The rate of under-employment for young people is now at 18%. Young people experiencing homelessness are often trapped under Newstart allowances and are forced to survive on \$39 per day – probably \$15 per day once the minimal cost of renting a room is covered.

Is this the way our country engages the next generation, supports future families, ensures the best start in education and employment for all?

“Where is the plan for the Northern Territory and nationally to address youth homelessness? Sadly, there is no comprehensive plan” said Dave Pugh, CEO Anglicare NT.

On Tuesday 16 April, the NT Government announced that under ‘Budget Repair’ funding for homelessness services, including those to young people, will be reduced by 3% per annum.

“Over the next three years, funding to Anglicare NT homelessness services will be reduced by over \$300,000. That is a huge reduction in our ability to support young people experiencing homelessness and the complex needs associated with youth homelessness.”

“Strangely, the NT Government has decided that ‘Homelessness Services’ will be reduced by 3% per annum while other support services in family support, youth services and corrections will only be reduced by 1%. Where is the logic in this decision’, said Mr Pugh.

Anglicare NT understands that in periods of economic downturn, belts need to be tightened. What we don't understand and are most concerned about, is why funding to support the homeless, including homeless young people, is so disproportionately reduced.

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange interviews with Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh, please contact Anglicare NT Media team.

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