

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 APRIL 2016

### 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.

"This is the fourth year we have held Couch Surfing races to raise awareness of Youth Homelessness Matters Day. The event will be held during Youth Week on Wednesday 13 April 2016 from 10.30am – 3pm in the Parliament House Carpark, Bennett Street Darwin."

Fourteen teams are registered for Couch Surfing Races and young people have been decorating couches in preparation 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 the day for a fun, artistic and active 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 is partnering with the City of Darwin and a number of other community organisations and local schools to organise this event. We 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 THE COUCH SURFING EVENT

Contact Jemma Wood or Bree Champion at Anglicare NT on 08 8985 0000

### NOTES FOR EDITOR

*Media welcome to photograph / film at Parliament House Carpark Wednesday 13 April 2016. Welcome and speeches from 11am and Couch Surfing Races commence at 12pm.*

### FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

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

### MEDIA CONTACT:

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