

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2010

Wednesday 14th April

Countdown: Everyone Counts



Important work is being done right now by community organisations and all levels of Government to reduce youth homelessness in NSW and Australia.

The **Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD)** campaign aims to raise the public's awareness about young people who are experiencing homelessness in Australia.

Every night in Australia and in NSW nearly half of people experiencing homeless are under 25 years of age. In NSW there are over 11,800 children and young people experiencing homelessness every night.

YHMD 2010

Media Enquiries :

Michael Coffey

YAA CEO

& NYCH

0425 228 758

michael@yaa.com.au

Mary Biddle

YAA Co-President

0433 763 996

Brett Paradise

YAA Co-President

& NYCH

0427 307 118

“They are not just sleeping on the street, they are couch surfing, in makeshift and unsafe living situations and some are supported by a growing spectrum of specialist homeless and housing services” says Mr Coffey CEO of YAA. “No child or young person should be homeless in NSW ... and we can do something about achieving this”.

Brett Paradise, Co President of YAA says, “On YHMD we also celebrate the resilience and strength of all young people whom fall into homeless, to let you know that **Youth Homelessness DOES Matter** and that together with the Government **we are working to do something about it.** ”

As agencies across NSW run community events for on YHMD, 14th April 2010. This year's theme '**Countdown... Everyone Counts.**' aims to reflect the fact that youth homelessness affects a range of young people in different circumstances and for different reasons, such as family breakdown, domestic violence, housing or rent crisis.

“Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice for young people” says Mr Coffey CEO of YAA. “...no child or young person should be homeless in our society”.

“We can do something about youth homelessness ... and we are ” says Mary Biddle, Co President of YAA “YHMD 2010 aims to highlight the great work that is being done both all levels of Government in partnership with non-Government agencies and charities and to remind the community that homelessness is widespread in our community and is ‘everyone's responsibility’. It also highlights that there is a great deal more work still to be done towards ending youth homelessness”

The official launch of the campaign will be held at the Wesley Centre at noon on the 13th April, with guest speakers Federal Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, NSW Minister for Housing, David Borger and Veronica Penna who is a consumer rep on the NSW Premiers Council on Homelessness. This year over 18 YHMD events are running throughout youth week



YHMD Events in NSW 13-16 April 2010.

For updates and additional events NSW and National go to:
<http://www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net>

- 1. Sydney CBD Campaign Launch by Federal Minister Plibersek and Launch of Housing NSW Youth Action Plan by NSW Minister for Housing David Borger and Veronica Penna from the NSW Premiers Council on Homelessness** 13th April 12noon – 1pm Wesley Centre Pitt St Sydney
Contact Michael Coffey. Participants at this launch will be youth homeless services in NSW.
- 2. North Sydney:** Phoenix House Youth Services Free BBQ, entertainment, guest speakers, photography exhibition, panel of youth speakers. Civic Park (outside North Sydney council chambers, Miller St, North Sydney) *Time:* 12pm-2pm
- 3. Belmore:** YAA (Canterbury Youth Services) "Youth X Festival"
Friday 16th April Belmore Sports Ground *Contact:* Simone Payne (02) 9718 1200
- 4. Blue Mountains:** Free BBQ Springwood Town Centre (Corner Macquarie Rd, next to Westpac Bank)
Time: 11.30am-2.30pm
- 5. Wollongong:** Southern Youth & Family Services and Illawarra Youth Housing will hold a big community BBQ. At 471 Crown St, Wollongong. The event will feature media coverage on young people who access local services, artworks on display, prizes Service Information will be available and the event will be supported by other NGO's schools, the Wollongong Dragons and Hawks. *Contact:* Kevin Crowe (02) 4226 5683
- 6. Griffith:** Souther Riverina Youth Support Services will be presenting a street exhibition entitled ""Moving a Darama" a mobile exhibition involving house shaped large boxes with information attached, suitcases (as in living out of one) and laptops. Like many young people experiencing homelessness the exhibition will be transient and moving around the city. *Contact:* Tamara Te Huia (02) 6962 7045
- 7. Cooma:** Monaro Crisis Accommodation Service will be launching a "Youth Safe House" Model at the official opening of their new premises. The event will include guest speaker Sue Cripps Executive Officer of Homelessness NSW and an open day. (02) 6452 6147 to RSVP or for more information
- 8. Nambucca Shire Region:** Static display at Macksville Library including the opening the Youth Week Art/ Photography /Literature Exhibition 'Live it Now'. There will also be a free BBQ.
Location: Macksville Library, Princess Street, Macksville *Time* 10 am until 3 pm
Contact: Vicki Fernance, Nambucca Shire Council 02 6568 0254 or email:
vicki.fernance@nambucca.nsw.gov.au
- 9. Moruya:** Local young people will aim to bring about awareness of youth homelessness. Small groups of local young people will be taken on a guided tour of the local youth refuge. Vulcan Street, Moruya 12 noon. *Contact:* Kym Bush. Eurobodalla Shire Council (02) 4474 7402
- 10. Mid North Coast:** Throughout Youth Week, there will be static displays in empty shop fronts, representing youth homelessness, displaying facts and myths. 14th April (3.30pm - 10pm) on the Town Green with 6 local youth bands two of which have one the Triple J unearthed, plus a DJ set. There will be information stalls, temporary spray tattooing, face painting, a chance for young people to paint a mural for YHMD on canvas with a local artist and more. We have free buses coming from outer lying areas to enable easy access to young people who do not live in the CBD area to attend the event. On the same

evening a 'night under the stars' we are asking valuable community members to spend the night under the stars on the Town Green to raise monies for youth homeless people to be social included in school excursions, recreational activities, crisis monies for underwear and other items you are unable to get from another charity or organisations. Plus to raise awareness of the many faces of homelessness, in the hope to break down commonly held stereotypes. *Contact:* Kylie Ridley (02) 6584 9666

11. Kempsey: P Space MNC

P Space MNC Inc is holding a week long static display in the Kempsey Mall, incorporating the visual image of a couch – to highlight the hidden numbers of young people who are “couch surfing”. The display also incorporates a representation of 5% of the youth homelessness statistics by paper cardboard little people. These cardboard displays will be provided to local businesses to display, with information about youth homelessness and how our local community members can support youth who experience homelessness. The “Help TIE up Youth Homelessness” Campaign will see local business owners and employee’s provided with neck ties – displaying the Youth Homelessness Matters logo – to wear on the 14th April, to further disseminate information to community members who would not normally engage in community events.

Where: Kempsey Mall *Contact:* Nerida Ackerman Manager YP SPACE MNC (YPS) 0417 534307

12. Byron Bay: Byron Bay Youth House holding an open house "morning tea" (10.30 am) and provide information, presentations including young people's stories, guided tours, entertainment and good food.

Contact: Angela Ward on (02) 6685 7264

13. Albury: YES Youth and Family Services

BBQ, Photographic Display, Painted statements all by young people and their own stories & experiences

Where: QEII Square, Dean St, Albury *Time:* 9.30am-1:30pm *Contact:* Craig 02 6058 6280

14. Deniliquin: Vinnies Reconnect Service is holding a keep our Young People Safe Day, screening DVD "Lifting the Lid", produced by young people for young people, BBQ lunch and hosting several activities for young people *Where:* Deniliquin Sports Arena *Contact:* Pat Fogarty

15. Glen Innes: Pathfinders Inc, TIGYS and IFYSS Inverell will be holding a BBQ and information day

Where: TIGYS, 31 Vivian St, Inverell

Time: *Contact:* Mary/Renata 02 6722 5512 or 0427 726 559

16. Tweed Heads:- St Joseph's Youth Service

Where:- Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Chris Cunningham Park)

The event will include a shoe display symbolising the amount of young people in the Tweed. Activities include jumping castle, slingshot bungee run, tightrope walking and interactive basketball. Free BBQ and pancakes. Local community station broadcasting from the event and winners of the creative writing competition will be announced.

Time:- 10 -2pm. More info:- Gerina Appo 0755891800. gerina.appo@sjys.org.au

17. Manly

Youth event with the Burdekin Association and Manly Youth Council

Where: Manly Corso *More info:* Kate Munro Youth Development Officer Manly Council 9977 5599

Karen Berman The Burdekin Association 8976 1777

18. Dubbo UnitingCare Burnsides' Youth Services Team in Dubbo will be gathering with various agencies in the community that support youth in and around homelessness. An information stall will be held at Centro Shopping Centre for distribution of promotion material, service information (flyers, contacts & banners) and the display of messages correlating with the theme Count Down, Everyone Counts. Young people have participated in the way of taking photos for display of homelessness issues. Heath Fryer and Jamila Bones will be the contact people for the event; we can be contacted on (02) 6884 0419 or (02)6884 5254.