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New data shows that Youth Homeless Services are doing a good job.

Thursday, September 4, 2008

NEWS ALERT

The peak organisation for youth homelessness services in NSW, the Youth Accommodation Association, is encouraged by the data in the new ABS data report "Counting the Homeless" released today.

The report notes that young people aged 12 to 18 years who identified themselves as being homeless decreased from 22,600 in 2001 to 17,891 in 2006, a decrease of 21%. This is good news !!!!

In response to this new report, Michael Coffey CEO of YAA says, "We are encouraged because this gives us strong evidence of the success of youth services and workers who provide a range of supports such as early intervention, intensive supported accommodation and post crisis support for young people experiencing or at risk of homeless. This is why other countries look to Australia as a leader with regards to our response to youth homelessness"

"But before we pat ourselves on the back, there is still much more work that needs to be done"

"According to the new figures, we know that on any night in Australia that approximately a third of the 105,000 homeless population were children and young people under the age of 18. Many travel between friend or strangers, some sleep in parks and under bridges, and others put themselves in risky survival situations. We are still deeply concerned that children and young people are an invisible face of homelessness."

"We are looking for the Commonwealth's White Paper and a NSW Homelessness Framework to demonstrate some strong national and state leadership and present some concrete solutions towards addressing this national disgrace, which build on and compliment the strong foundations established by existing youth homeless support programs."

For further media comment:

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