

MEDIA RELEASE

19 April 2021

COUCH SURFING TO RAISE AWARENESS OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS ON 21 APRIL

The Northern Territory has one of the highest rates of youth homelessness in Australia, with over 3,500 young people homeless on any given night.

Many young people live in overcrowded accommodation or are couch surfing, moving from place to place with limited support.

This Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Anglicare NT and City of Darwin are raising awareness through the Couch Surfing event. Together with local schools and community service providers, teams of young people will race on brightly decorated couches and learn about what they can do to help their friends and themselves if they experience problems.

“We advocate for the rights of all young Territorians to have a safe and stable home,” said Anglicare NT CEO Mr Pugh.

“We need to do more for our young people – according to the last Census data, almost half of all people experiencing homelessness in the NT are under 25 years of age.”

With a safe home, young people can thrive, build relationships, grow independent living skills and pursue study or work.

“I could finally be independent, safe, secure and complete – a home really brings family together,” said one young person.

“With a home, I can plan a better future filled with opportunities.”

Spectators are welcome to watch the action, take part in free activities and visit the information stalls promoting local support services. First Nations Radio will broadcast live from the event that runs from 10.30am - 3pm on Wednesday 21 April at Civic Park, Darwin.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day Key Messages

- No young person should have to worry about where to sleep at night.
- Homelessness can profoundly affect a person's mental and physical health, education and employment opportunities, and connection to family and community.
- With a safe home, young people thrive, build relationships, grow independent living skills and can pursue study or work.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened youth homelessness with increased domestic and family violence, unemployment, rent rises and low rental vacancy rates.
- Youth homelessness is not a sentence. The right support at the right time can create positive futures for young people.

NOTES FOR EDITOR

Media welcome for photographs, film or audio at Civic Park, Darwin City on Wednesday 21 April 2021. Speeches commence at 10.30am and Couch Surfing Races at 11am.

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange an interview, please contact Anglicare NT media team.

MEDIA CONTACT

Lila Loveard – 0409 222 143 or media@anglicare-nt.org.au