



Phone 02 9698 5833 Fax 02 9318 2058 email: [yaa@yaa.com.au](mailto:yaa@yaa.com.au)  
PO Box 3115 Redfern, NSW 2016 ABN: 20 512 756 029

# **32,000 To GO.....**

# **Ending Youth Homelessness is Achievable!**

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## **NEWS ALERT**

The peak organisation for youth homelessness services in NSW, the Youth Accommodation Association, welcomes the launch of The Salvation Army Oasis Youth Support Network's "32,000 To Go" Campaign. Every night, more than 32,000 Australians under the age of 24 are exposed to the harsh realities of couch surfing, rough sleeping and in unsafe/unstable environments.. The youth homelessness crisis requires action from all sections of the community, and the "32,000 To Go" Campaign is a great start.

In response the campaign launch, Michael Coffey CEO of YAA says, "We are encouraged because this campaign seeks to shed light on the incredible challenges that so many young people face every day. It's great that youth homelessness is finally on the agenda. Raising understanding amongst mainstream society of just how hard it can be for a young person experiencing or facing homelessness to find their way back into a healthy and supported lifestyle is an integral step toward ending youth homelessness. Support from the wider community is essential."

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

"The Oasis campaign highlights the tireless work that specialist youth homelessness services do every day to support young people in really challenging situations. It's also really important to recognise the smaller services that work across the country with severely limited resources and often no thanks. These are unsung heroes of Australian society and it's important that their voices are heard."

"This is why Youth Accommodation Association conducts public work with the Youth Homelessness Matters Campaign, using public events, conferences and the April Youth Homelessness Matters Day to advocate for young people and the services that work to get these young people back on their feet, providing accommodation, counselling and support."

"We are looking forward to the seeing the dollars promised by the NSW Homelessness Action Plan and the Commonwealth's White Paper, *'The Road Home'*. These policies represent real progress as they are the first national and state leadership on this issue. The opportunity to work towards addressing this national disgrace that we are seeing now is one that must not be missed. We need to build on the strong foundations and successes already established by the sector."

For further media comment:

**Michael Coffey** : CEO

Ph: 0425 228 758

For more information on Youth Homelessness Matters visit [www.yaa.com.au](http://www.yaa.com.au)

