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Youth homeless services in NSW give the ‘thumbs up’ for the Prime Minister’s white paper on homelessness.

MEDIA RELEASE

10.30 am Sunday 21st December

The peak organisation for young homeless people and youth homelessness services in NSW, the Youth Accommodation Association (YAA), welcomes the launch of the “**The Road Home- A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness**” by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today.

“We congratulate the Prime Minister and Minister Plibersek for delivering on their election promise to reduce homelessness. We welcome their demonstrated commitment to invest and build on what exists now, to enhance the response to for the 105,000 people experiencing homeless and those who are at risk of homelessness every night in Australia” said Michael Coffey, CEO of YAA, and founding member of Australians for Ending Homelessness.

“The White Paper sets up a strong vision and a long term plan to end homelessness in Australia. It is the beginning of a new era where we take steps to address the social inequities in this country. We look forward to working with Federal and State governments to make this happen.” said Kevin Crowe, President of YAA.

“The National Youth Commission Inquiry last year highlighted the plight of too many homeless and disadvantaged children. Homeless Children and young people represent nearly half of the homelessness population and so we are very pleased that the Government has listened to our concern. We are encouraged that the White Paper suggests a range of new opportunities which will build on and enhance the foundational and critical work that has been done by youth homeless services over the last three decades”

“We also recognise this as the start of the journey to end homelessness in Australia. There is a need for governments, community agencies and the whole of the community to work together on this problem”

“We are pleased that the government has recognised the vital work that homeless services have been performing for many years and we call on all governments to capitalise on the expertise held by workers in the homelessness sector to help guide the new approach to end homelessness in Australia” said Michael Coffey. “It is crucial that we build on this knowledge and experience to ensure that people experiencing homelessness exit as soon as possible into full community participation and we break the cycle of homelessness”.

For further media comment:

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The last ABS census tells us that there were 11,770 young people under 25 who are homeless on any night in NSW.

