



Program:

Queensland Youth Housing Coalition invites you to **Platform 1225**, an insightful discussion between key stakeholders in youth housing and homelessness featuring the **voices of young people** together with:

- **Hon Michael de Brenni**,
Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport
- **Associate Professor David Mackenzie**
Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University – Melbourne

Guest panel members:

- **Aimee McVeigh** – McVeigh Law
- **Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett** - Orange Sky Laundry
- **Dale Murray** – Youth Plus Institute
- **Maria Leebeek** – Micah Projects
- **David MacKenzie** – Swinburne University

Registration Now Open



MC & Facilitator :

Jenny Ryan

Jenny brings over 30 years experience as a professional in social, human and health services as an educator, coordinator, facilitator, therapist, administrator and manager. Jenny has worked in senior positions in the public, private and community sectors. She has extensive experience in communications, program and project management and delivery in the development of strategic and operational policy and procedures. Jenny has considerable experience in facilitation of events, in marketing and promotions and in the delivery of health and wellbeing services. Her primary interest and focus has been on facilitating the development and culture of communities, organisations, businesses, networks and the personal development and wellbeing of individuals

Entertainment:

Terry – CREATE

Terry's poetic way with words and understanding of social issues will be demonstrated through his lyrics. Terry is the opening performance of Platform 1225.

Hannah Jones – Music Industry College

Hannah Marie is a 16 year old Australian country singer/songwriter. Hannah's love for music started at a very young age and has placed her on many stages across the state including the Gympie Muster and Tamworth. She has branched out into the world of busking and gigging and is also a member of a band called Shotgun Shae. Blessing us all with her glorious sound her preferred genre is country, country rock, pop, rock and a mixture of the old classics every person and their Dad has come to love over the years. She is working towards the dream of one day being in Nashville.

Marco Ghikas – Music Industry College

Marco is a 16 year old singer, songwriter and performer. He has been into music ever since he was 7 years old, singing in school choirs and performing at different venues around Brisbane. Being able to get up on stage and perform various pieces of music is such an exhilarating experience for him and he can't wait to see what the future holds. Marco will be performing on his Ukulele to close the event.

Eric Blair - Songman

Eric Blair is a traditional Aboriginal dancer and Songman for the Wakka Wakka people. He has been performing since his early childhood with members of the Wakka-Wakka dance group. The Wakka-Wakka dance group is traditionally connected by kinship to the Turrbal Traditional Owners of Brisbane.



Speakers:

Hon Michael de Brenni,

Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport.

Throughout his career Mick has been committed to social justice, working with people to collectively change things that we can't change by ourselves. It's a passion that he has held for all of his adult life and he brings this energy to his work as Minister, assisting vulnerable Queenslanders through housing support and making sure that the hundreds of thousands of families who depend on the state's construction industry have a strong pipeline of work.

His achievements since becoming Minister include:

- Supporting specialist mobile support services to proactively assist young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Expanding rental assistance for veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Creating the new Dignity First Fund for assist the creation of new, innovative solutions to homelessness.
- Making it easier for victims of domestic and family violence to find a secure place to call home.

Mick is progressing an ambitious agenda that will see:

- The development of the state's first ever 10 year housing strategy to ensure every Queenslanders has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home
- Meaningful action to ensure security of payment for subcontractors
- A new procurement strategy that ensure value for money for government and will help drive increased local capability.

Our built environment provides the most well researched, cost positive opportunities to improve energy efficiency and performance, and Mick is committed to improving sustainability outcomes across the building industry

Adam Barnes – Queensland Youth Housing Coalition

Chairperson, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition.

Adam has worked alongside young people and the staff who support them in housing, homelessness and legal contexts. He has been a member of the QYHC board since 2012. Adam is passionate about improving outcomes for young people and contributing to practice and policy development. He is currently managing the Sustaining Young Tenancies Project for Brisbane Youth Service. This trial initiative, funded by the Department of Housing and Public Works, supports young tenants living in social housing.



Speakers:

David MacKenzie

Associate Professor - Swinburne University

David has a strong record of research and development on issues associated with young people and youth policy and is widely recognised in Australia for his work on homelessness. Over the past 20 years or so, David has served on a number of government advisory committees and taskforces. From 1988 to 2003, he taught youth work undergraduates at RMIT. He is co-author of *Youth Homelessness: Early intervention and prevention* (1998) as well as many research reports and articles.

In 2005-2007, David undertook the national evaluation of the HOME Advice program, which provides early intervention for families at-risk of homelessness. In 2007-2008, David was one of the four Commissioners responsible for the National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Homelessness that tabled its report *Australia's Homeless Youth* in April 2008 and which along with the accompanying broadcast documentary film *The Oasis*, was influential on the development of the Federal Government White Paper, *The Road Home*. From 2010-2013, David was Director of the Homeless Research Collaboration, a group of four Universities led by Swinburne University, that was one of the three University groups funded by the Australian Government to do research under the Homelessness Research Partnership Agreements. David has been an architect of The Geelong Project 'community of schools and youth services' collective impact (COSS) model of early intervention and is currently working with the key partners on scaling up this model as a reform for how we better support disadvantaged young Australians (2011 - ongoing). David is the founder of Youth Development Australia Ltd (YDA), a not-for-profit charity that is a platform for innovative program development and policy change for young Australians. YDA operates Youthworx, a successful media training and production program for homeless and at-risk young people.

Aimee McVeigh – McVeigh Law

Director – McVeigh Law

Aimee McVeigh is a lawyer and human rights advocate. Aimee is currently coordinating the push for a Human Rights Act for Queensland. She recently worked together with a local disability support service to establish Disability Law Queensland. As a director of this service, she provides legal advice to people with a disability and their families. Aimee has also worked as a gender advisor to the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples and created a best practice guide to help survivors of child sexual abuse engage with the Royal Commission. She's also worked alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to improve their ability to access justice.



Speakers:

Maria Leebeek – Micah Projects

Team Leader - Innovation, Performance and Evaluation Team

Micah Projects Inc.

Maria has a range of experience in the human services from direct practice to organisational management, with a long history in the youth sector as Director of BYS and EO of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition. Maria has been on a range of government and sector committees and boards. Maria has a Bachelor of Social Work and Graduate Diploma in Business.

Dale Murray (BA DipEd, MA ED. Churchill Fellow)

Director – Youth Plus Institute

Edmund Rice Education Australia Youth+ (EREA Youth+)

For over 26 years Dale Murray has worked in the area of flexible education provision. Firstly as a teacher in the Centre Education Programme (the first Flexible Learning Centre in Queensland, Australia) then as the Principal, Flexible Learning Centre Network and now in his current role as Director, EREA Youth+. EREA Youth+ provides socially inclusive educational environments for disenfranchised young people of high school age. The centres located around the nation work with community, NGO's, Catholic Education Offices and state and federal governments to reengage young people who for complex social reasons are unable to maintain connection with mainstream education services. Dale has a deep commitment to working with communities, government, families and young people in developing environments that offer the most marginalised in our nation a socially inclusive educational pathway. Dale is currently responsible for the development of a range of new educational initiatives nationally. He is also the Director of the Youth+ Institute, a Director on the Board on the Youth+ Foundation an industry partner on numerous ARC research projects.

Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett – Orange Sky Laundry

Social entrepreneurs

In October 2014, two best mates had a crazy idea to put two washing machines and two dryers in the back of a van, and wash and dry clothes for free. Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, the 2016 Young Australians of the Year, founded Orange Sky Laundry – a world-first, free mobile laundry service for the homeless. On a mission to improve hygiene standards, Nic and Lucas stumbled on something much bigger and more significant – the power of a conversation. Now facilitated by more than 700 volunteers across the country, Orange Sky Australia aims to positively connect the community.



QYHC - Platform 1225

Friday 7 April, 2017

7:30 – 8:30	Registration	Arrival Coffee and Pastries
8:30 - 8:35	Welcome	MC : Jenny Ryan
8:35 – 8:45	Opening Performance	CREATE Young Person - Terry
8:45 – 8:50	Official Welcome	QYHC President - Adam Barnes
8:50 – 8:55	Welcome to Country	Eric Blair - Songman
8:55 – 9:05	Official Address	Hon Mick de Brenni MP Minister for Housing
9:05 – 9:50	Keynote Address: 'How reducing youth homelessness can save money: Findings from the Costs of Youth Homelessness in Australia research'	Associate Professor David MacKenzie Swinburne Institute for Social Research Swinburne University, Melbourne
9:50 – 10.00	Performance	Hannah Jones Music Industry College
10:00 – 10:30	Morning Tea	Information displays
10:30 – 12:00	Panel Session: Young People : Finding Home <i>Dignity First or Housing First..... are they mutually exclusive?</i>	Facilitator: Jenny Ryan Panel Members : Aimee McVeigh – McVeigh Law Nic Marchesi & Lucas Patchett – Orange Sky Dale Murray - Youth+ Maria Leebeek – Micah Projects David MacKenzie – Swinburne Uni
12:00 – 12:15	Closing Session <i>Where to from here?</i>	Facilitator : Jenny Ryan QYHC Chair: Adam Barnes
15 – 12:25	Closing Performance	Marco Ghikas Music Industry College

