



Release

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Strong focus on youth homelessness in White Paper on homelessness

The peak organisation for young homeless people and youth homelessness services in Queensland, the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition (QYHC), 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 the significant new investment in homelessness to improve the responses to homelessness” said Maria Leebeek, Executive Officer of QYHC, and founding member of Australians for Ending Homelessness.

“The White Paper sets up a strong vision and three major strategies with the view to halving homelessness by 2020 and we look forward to working with the Federal and State governments to make this happen”.

“The White Paper has addressed many of the concerns that QYHC and its members have highlighted during the course of the Green Paper consultation. In particular the recognition that young people make up the largest group experiencing homelessness and that specific responses need to be developed is warmly welcomed”.

The White Paper provides greater scope for the State Government to respond to homelessness. QYHC believes that there is a need for the Queensland State government to develop specific youth homelessness responses in order to be able to meet some of the targets outlined in the White Paper.

“We are encouraged that the White Paper supports the continued development of specialist homeless services that will build on and enhance the foundational and critical work that has been done by youth homeless services over the last three decades.”

The White Paper recognises the role that “peak homelessness services can play” particularly in the area of research that will improve homelessness responses. “It is hoped that QYHC will be supported by the State government to be able to assist them not only as part of their negotiations with the Federal Government in the development of the National Partnership Implementation Plan but in the broader implementation of the new national approach” noted Ms Leebeek.

“This National Approach to Reducing Homelessness is a fantastic opportunity to address homelessness and to provide homeless young people with a hope for their future.”

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