



A Drastic state as homeless children and young people top national data

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Data released yesterday shows children and young people represent the highest number of our nation's homeless and as such require support from homelessness services at a higher rate than any other group. This is another clear indicator that the Youth Homelessness action Plan is essential to ensure Queensland's most vulnerable young people are not trapped in a cycle of homelessness.

The report, *Government-funded specialist homelessness services SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2010-11*, also stated that females aged 15-19 years were the group young people most in need.

A State increase in the use of services from 37,900 people to 40,300 people was also identified.

Ms Maria Leebeek, Executive Officer of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition, Queensland's youth homelessness industry peak body considers this rapid increase in homelessness alarming:

"It is clear from this statistic that the current specialist youth homelessness services are stretched beyond capacity endeavouring to meet this vital need. There is clearly so much more we must do. The task of assisting services has fallen to our organisation which is currently self funded. This needs to be an urgent priority for the Queensland government. They need to work alongside us in the process of addressing this dire situation and the growing demand for services."

Ms Leebeek asserts that such clear and concerning data demonstrates the urgent need for the Queensland Youth Homelessness Action Plan which is part of the Queensland Government Strategy for Reducing Homelessness

"This level of youth homelessness is unacceptable. No young person in Australia should be homeless, yet thousands are. We need to take immediate action to remedy this atrocity."

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