

MEDIA RELEASE
July 2020

Joint statement from Youth Off The Streets, Yfoundations and Domestic Violence NSW:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES \$3MILLION PACKAGE TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS

The Federal government on Monday 20th July 2020 has announced a \$3 million package to provide more counselling and support services for women and their children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

The package will be delivered to 23 service providers across every state and territory, with 93 locations nationwide. According to government figures, about 6,000 people use these services and the extra funding could support 2,000 more women and children.

Today, Youth Off The Streets, Yfoundations and Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) are urging the Federal Government to also consider young people who no longer feel safe at home due to domestic and family violence or are suffering the long term impact of experiencing and witnessing violence at home.

Youth Off The Streets CEO, Lex Lutherborrow says she welcomes the announcement but there must be consideration made for new funding to be allocated to services supporting young people escaping domestic and family violence.

“Between March and June 2020, our Inner West Youth Homeless Services (IWYHS) intake line received 106 referrals of young people requiring support due to domestic and family violence-related issues.”

“Domestic and family violence is one of the leading causes of youth homelessness in Australia and we urge the Federal government to allocate new funding to youth services to support the growing number of vulnerable young people turning to us because it is no longer safe to go home.”

Yfoundations CEO, Pam Barker says this funding is welcomed, however funding must be invested in our children and young people escaping domestic violence. Young people often flee situations and end up in youth homelessness services needing support. The government must consider the role youth homelessness services play in the intervention and recovery for those young people escaping domestic and family violence.

Domestic Violence NSW CEO, Delia Donovan said “funding needs to consider children and young people escaping domestic and family violence in order to ensure they go onto live safe and healthy lives...”

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For further information contact:

Youth Off The Streets:

Sean Coles – Marketing And Communications Senior Coordinator

Email: SeanC@youthoffthestreets.com.au

Phone: 02 9330 3542 / 0472 826 578

About Youth Off The Streets:

Youth Off The Streets is a community organisation working for young people who are homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. They support these young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal traumas such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care. It is their goal that these young people will leave their care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand.

About Yfoundations

Yfoundations is the peak body for youth homelessness in NSW. It represents young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness in NSW, and also represents the services that provide direct support to children and young people. <http://yfoundations.org.au/> Since it was founded as the “Youth Refuge Action Group” in 1979, Yfoundations has been supporting young people who are at risk of and experiencing homelessness and works collaboratively with members, NGOs, government departments and community members, to provide policy and structural advocacy, services for young people, health projects, and research and sector development.

About Domestic Violence NSW

Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. DVNSW provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support. Their mission is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership in policy, advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of best practice.