



New Report on Domestic and Family Violence Affecting Young People



Next Wednesday the 13th of April 2016 is the 27th national Youth Homelessness Matters Day.

This year Yfoundations, the peak body on youth homelessness in NSW, will mark the occasion with the launch of a research paper: *Slamming the Door: Policy and Service Gaps for Young People Experiencing Domestic and Family Violence*.

This paper presents new survey data on the relationship between domestic and family violence and youth homelessness. It also collects previous research and discusses the lack of data, policy attention and resources for this area.

Dr Michael Coffey, CEO of Yfoundations, has pointed out: "Too often conversations about youth homelessness do not emphasise domestic violence, and debates about domestic violence tend not to address youth. In the gap between these is a group of highly disadvantaged young people who are not getting the specialist support that they need."

Nation wide statistics indicate that 33.1% of children and young people aged 10-24 who seek help from homelessness services are recorded as experiencing domestic and family violence. But the national *Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children* consistently refers to children only in the context of witnessing abuse against their Mother and does not address the need to support young people suffering abuse.

On the 5th and 6th of April 2016 Yfoundations conducted a snapshot survey, speaking to youth homelessness service providers across NSW who at the time were assisting a total of over 1,800 young people. This survey indicated that the number of homeless young people experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV) was much higher than 33.1%. The majority of services said that more than half of their young people had experienced DFV, and nearly half the services reported that 80% or more of their young people had experienced DFV.

Slamming the Door makes recommendations to address the problems it identifies. These will be presented at its launch in the Yfoundations' Youth Homelessness Matters Day event, to be held on Wednesday the 13th of April from 9:30am - 11:30am at Redfern Oval Community Room. It will be attended by local service workers, policy makers, media, and young people. Speakers include Megan Mitchell, Australia's first National Children's Commissioner for the Australian Human Rights Commission. Attendance is free and tea, coffee and a light lunch is provided. Please RSVP by Monday 11th of April by emailing:

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