

Rental Affordability Index shows young people are still missing out

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Despite some improvements for the average rental households nationally, the latest Rental Affordability Index shows lower-income households and Centrelink recipients are still missing out.

The [Rental Affordability Index](#) is an indicator of the price of rents nationwide relative to household incomes. The situation is particularly dire for young people on Newstart and Youth Allowance, as their payments have not increased (in real terms) in 20 years, against a backdrop of rising rent prices.

Rental affordability is also challenging for students, as many tertiary institutions are in central locations and high rental areas where there is a shortage of affordable housing. This means students are forced to choose between rent and other necessities (such as food and medication), or they need to find accommodation further away in lower rent areas, which puts additional pressures on students in terms of transport and other costs. These financial pressures place students in rental stress and at-risk of homelessness.

Yfoundations is calling for a national housing strategy, one that prioritises the needs of children and young people, and invests in affordable housing.

"It's simply not right! Rising rental costs keep young people in poverty. We need to work towards equipping young people to live flourishing lives. Our young people are our leaders of tomorrow". - Pam Barker, Yfoundations CEO

For media enquires contact: Pam Barker, CEO Yfoundations ceo@yfoundations.org.au
or 0425 225 758

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.

Yfoundations believes that with access to mechanisms that support the development and attainment of each foundation, a young person is more likely to enter adulthood with the skills, interests, competencies and healthy behaviours necessary build a productive and bright future.