



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 March 2018

New funding will enable more young people in crisis to seek stable housing

TODAY (28 March 2018) NSW Minister for Family and Community Services, the Hon. Pru Goward announced \$1.15million for the Northern Youth Project over the next three years, which will provide crisis and transitional housing support for young people aged 16-24 in the Northern Rivers.

“We’re delighted with this news” said Tony Davies, CEO of Social Futures “it’s recognition that our Connecting Home Youth program has worked hard to help stabilise the number of homeless young people in our region over the past five years, when data released from the 2016 Census shows it has increased by more than 90% in some parts of the state during the same period.”

Almost 800 young people – including young parents, expectant mums, young Aboriginal people, young people with mental and physical health challenges and LGBTQ+ young people – currently access Connecting Home Youth each year. Each year the new funding will provide emergency accommodation and support to help more than 90 young people to break the cycle of homelessness.

“We’ve been refining the Connecting Home service model” continued Davies, “which builds support around each young participant based on their individual needs, experiences and choices to help them find, establish and secure long term safe and stable housing. Once they achieve that, they’re in a much better position to deal with other social and health issues, and to engage more fully in their education and/or career goals.”

The Northern Youth Project will support young people in crisis to:

- find safe short-term or medium term accommodation;
- access services such as employment, education and training, and positive and safe family and community networks; and
- exit temporary arrangements, into safe and affordable long-term housing.

And the story doesn’t end here. “Our participants face very challenging life circumstances every day” concluded Davies, “This funding will go some way to meeting their needs, but if we are serious about maintaining – and ultimately reducing – levels of youth homelessness,

we need more social and affordable housing. We must continue to work with other Homeless Services in the area, housing associations such as North Coast Community Housing, youth services and State and local government organisations.”

To contact Connecting Home please call 1800 048 310 (9am-4.30pm Monday-Friday) or email firstresponse@socialfutures.org.au

In a housing emergency call Link2Home 1800 152 152 (24 hours)

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

1. Social Futures works to achieve social justice for regional Australians. It has almost 300 staff working from 20 offices in regional New South Wales and delivers a wide range of programs and services from homelessness, family planning and mental health social inclusion for people living with disabilities.
2. Social Futures' Connecting Home is the largest homelessness service in the Northern Rivers.