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## Media Release

# Funding Extension for Reconnect Program

NRSDC is pleased to announce that NSW State Funding has been received to enable the extension of our North Rivers Reconnect Program until 30 June 2017.

The Reconnect program assists young people aged 12-18 (12-21 for recent arrivals to Australia) to stabilise their current living situation and improve their engagement with family. The program aims to assist young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families.

Reconnect uses family-focused early intervention strategies such as counselling, family mediation and group work to help young people achieve family reconciliation, stabilise and improve their housing, as well as improve their level of engagement with education, work, training and the community.

The program has a team of 5 who cover different regions from Tweed to Grafton. In the last financial year (2014-2015) 106 families were assisted by Reconnect (youth homelessness prevention) over and above the FACS target of 91 families.

NRSDC Director, Youth and Community Connections, Nicola Garnsey says: *"This program, which helps to repair and to build trusting family relationships, has a strong emphasis on helping to empower young people and their families. We have seen great success with this model and we are very happy that funding for Reconnect has been extended so we can continue to provide support for Northern Rivers families."*

### **For further information about the Reconnect program please contact:**

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**Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC)**

*A community-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes fairness and social inclusion in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.*