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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

New accommodation facility to help North-West youth reach independence

The Tasmanian Government is committed to improving access to housing and education for vulnerable young Tasmanians.

Construction will start soon on a new Youth2Independence (Y2I) facility in Burnie, which will provide 25 independent single-bedroom units, staff accommodation, and communal and associated facilities.

Local firm Stubbs Constructions has been awarded the contract to build the \$14.2 million facility and it is expected the building works will contribute significantly to the local economy, supporting businesses and local jobs.

Initial construction work will start next month, with the accommodation units to be completed by June 2023.

The new units will provide more accommodation for young people in North-West Tasmania who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-2023 outlines the Tasmanian Government's commitment to delivering more supported youth accommodation facilities that include integrated education and employment options, and develop young people's independent living skills.

The facility will include accommodation for on-site management, administration and support areas, a commercial kitchen for training purposes, and communal areas including activity rooms, a gymnasium, lounge areas and training rooms.

The Mooreville Road site is ideal for the new youth facility as it is next to both the Burnie TasTAFE campus and Hellyer College, and is close to health and transport services, and other educational and training facilities.

It will be managed by Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC), a not-for-profit community

organisation that provides a range of services to young people, families and individuals across the North-West and West coasts.

There is an identified shortfall in the provision of appropriate housing and homelessness services for young people in the State's North-West, and particularly services that combine suitable affordable housing with other supports aimed at ensuring better social inclusion for young people accessing the services.

Three Y2I facilities are already successfully providing services to young Tasmanians: Trinity Hill in Hobart, Thyne House in Launceston and Eveline House in Devonport.

Work is underway to increase the size of the current 30-bed Launceston facility, with the \$8.9 million, 20-unit expansion expected to be completed by the end of this year and work has commenced on a second Y2I facility in Hobart, which will provide 26 units next to the TasTAFE campus in Campbell St.

Y2I is based on the international Education First Youth Foyer program, which supports young people to develop and succeed in education and employment pathways and transition to independent young adults.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the housing struggles facing Tasmanians and is responding with a massive 10-year, \$1.5 billion housing package – the largest housing investment in the State's history – to build on our existing reforms and take further action to provide even more affordable accommodation.

This will deliver 10,000 new affordable homes and accommodation over the next decade to meet the diverse housing needs of Tasmanians, including youth, the elderly, those living with a disability, men, women and families.

But we also know that there are Tasmanians who are doing it tough and need support right now. That is why we are investing more than \$36 million on wrap-around services to ensure those who need help now are getting the services they need. This includes funding for 17 existing Specialist Homelessness Services, including Housing Connect Front Door and Support, as well as crisis shelters and supported accommodation. In addition, \$6.9 million has been allocated specifically for our Safe Spaces and connected support services, providing services and support to those who need it right now.

If you are at risk of homelessness, please contact Housing Connect, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 800 588.