

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Veterans Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

5 August 2022

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

Providing housing support for Tasmanians in the North-West

To mark the end of Homelessness Week 2022, the Tasmanian Government wants to recognise its partner providers such as Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC) in the State's North-West for the vital work they do in tackling homelessness.

YFCC is 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.

YFCC has operated youth crisis and transitional accommodation services in Burnie and Devonport for more than 40 years.

The Tasmanian Government funds YFCC to deliver crisis and transitional supported accommodation to children and young people aged 13 to 20 years in Devonport and Burnie.

As part of the great work, the YFCC deliver for the community, they will also manage the new Burnie Youth2Independence facility (Y2I) and the new Launceston Youth at Risk centre, both of which are currently under construction. The Y2I facility is expected to be completed by June 2023, while the Youth at Risk centre is expected to be completed in September 2022.

YFCC employs over 45 staff across the North-West Coast, operating from three locations in Devonport, Burnie and Coee.

In addition to these permanent sites, YFCC provides a wide range of other health and wellbeing services delivered via outreach centres using local service provider partnerships in Rosebery, Zeehan, Queenstown, Smithton, Wynyard, Ulverstone, Sheffield and Latrobe and on King Island. These services include health promotion, alcohol and drug, needle and syringe program, and family support.

We have the lowest rate of homelessness in the country, and we are the only jurisdiction to have increased our social housing stock to keep pace with population growth. However, we know there is more to do to tackle homelessness, which is why we are also building more facilities this financial year,

specifically in the North-West:

- a new 25-bed Youth2Independence facility in Burnie
- the first dedicated men's shelter on the North-West Coast, which will provide accommodation for men with or without children

These projects complement our ambitious build program across the state, which will deliver an additional 1,500 homes by June 2023, many of which are already underway with our community housing providers and are opening every day, such as this morning's opening by Housing Choices Tasmania at Mary's Hope Road in Hobart.

Our build program has delivered 268 homes in the North-West since 2015 and supported an additional 54 families to buy and build their own home through our shared equity program.

The services offered by YFCC are important for the whole of community approach which is why the Tasmanian Government invest over \$36 million a year on wrap around services to ensure those who need help now are getting the services they need.

This includes funding for 17 Specialist Homelessness Services, including Housing Connect Front Door and Support, as well as crisis shelters and supported accommodation. These services include brokered accommodation in facilities such as Wellers Inn in Burnie which is now regularly supporting a number of people each night while they transition into stable accommodation.

In addition, \$6.9 million has been allocated specifically for our Safe Spaces and connected support services. Our Burnie Safe Spaces provides 26 beds each night to support those in crisis.

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