**MEDIA RELEASE**

# June 2018

**Homelessness rises to 4,454 young people every night in Queensland**

The coldest winter in years is coinciding with a rise in homelessness in inner city Brisbane, including vulnerable young people.

Recent ABS Census figures reveal 4,454 people aged under 24 years and as young as 12 are facing homelessness in Queensland.

Brisbane Youth Service is calling on the community to don a daggy jumper and help raise awareness of young people who have no place to call home.

Brisbane Youth Service CEO Annemaree Callander is appalled by the rise in homelessness in Brisbane and is seeking community support to put an end to the crisis.

“Young people experiencing homelessness are usually struggling with multiple complex issues such as poverty, poor physical and mental health, legal issues, early exit from education, unemployment and isolation”.

“Ending youth homelessness by providing safe housing and support for young people must be a priority for the whole community.”

Intervention by Brisbane Youth Service has seen the majority of homeless young people they assist move out of crisis, but they are still in desperate need of donations and support to provide long-term housing and support for these young people.

“Over the past two years we have seen a 74 percent reduction in homelessness in the young people we are working with, but there are many young people who need our support,” Ms Callander said.

To generate awareness and support for young people experiencing homelessness Brisbane Youth Service has declared July 27 as Daggy Jumper Day in Brisbane.

On this day, Brisbane Youth Service is encouraging the Brisbane community to post a photo in their daggiest jumper in support of the thousands of young people in Brisbane struggling to keep warm while sleeping on the streets or couch surfing.

“These young people are often hidden from view, but their experience and the devastating impact on their lives is very real,” Ms Callander said.

“As little as $90 can make sure a young person spends one less night on the street, and $500 will house a family for a week.”

Brisbane Youth Services provides emergency support and a range of services to help homeless and disadvantaged young people and their children to secure and maintain housing.

ENDS

**For media interviews, high-res imagery and VNR footage contact:**

Kristin Devitt

Managing Director, KDPR

kristin@kdpr.com.au

07 3136 2555

Josh Stengert

Public Relations Consultant, KDPR

josh@kdpr.com.au

07 3136 2555