

7 March 2019

MEDIA RELEASE
OLYMPIAN PITA TAUFATOFUA HELPING BRISBANE YOUTH SERVICE
BREAK GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

In 2016 Pita Taufatofua broke the internet as the shirtless Tongan flag bearer at the Rio Olympic games, but what most people don't know is that the dual-sport Olympian has a long history of helping other young people achieve their dreams. Now he's helping Brisbane Youth Service to break a Guinness World Record to raise awareness of youth homelessness, a cause very close to his heart.

"Breaking a Guinness World Record has always been on my bucket list, and now I have the chance to tick this one off with Brisbane Youth Service," said Pita.

"Not everyone in our community is aware that children as young as 12 are homeless, either sleeping rough or couch surfing, and facing all the dangers that these situations present.

"If doing 2 mins of Burpees with 1,500 other people can help to end youth homelessness, I'm in," said Pita.

Since he was 18, Pita has worked as a youth worker in Brisbane supporting vulnerable children and young people. Pita has worked with Brisbane Youth Service for the last six years in supported accommodation, delivering programs that enable young people to break the cycle of homelessness and gain independence.

"Brisbane Youth Service gives young people a safe place, possibly the first safe place they've ever had."

"Brisbane Youth Service programs empower young people with the knowledge, skills and resources to create a better life for themselves."

"They implement programs that have been honed over many years to help young people move out of homelessness and break that cycle," said Pita.

Despite becoming a dual-sport Olympian and taking the internet by storm, Pita still works at Brisbane Youth Service and jumped at the chance to break a Guinness World Record with Burpees for BYS.

Pita's sporting achievements are enough to inspire anyone, and he's hoping that 1,500 people will join him and Brisbane Youth Service on 6 April 2019 to make history and raise awareness of youth homelessness at the same time.

Pita Taufatofua is now an internationally recognised sports person with two Olympic games under his belt in different sports, a feat only achieved by a small few. Pita will shortly

announce yet another sport he is hoping to qualify in at Olympic level, this time in Tokyo in 2020. What that sport will be is anyone's guess, but it's gaining some serious interest from international sports media. If successful in competing in three Olympics in three different sports he will be the first person to ever complete the triple.

Among this hype and the long hours of training, Pita has continued to work with vulnerable young people, empowering them to reach their life goals.

Brisbane Youth Service has provided "New Futures for Young People" since 1977, helping BYS to break this Guinness World Record will raise awareness of the issues affecting vulnerable and homeless young people aged 12-25.

Interview and photos are available by request with CEO Annemaree Callendar, Pita Taufatofua and Founder of Burpees for BYS Dave the Trainer.

EVENT DETAILS

Where: Southern Districts Basketball Centre, 56 Zahel St, Carina Hosted by Brisbane Bullets and Southern Districts Basketball Association

When: Saturday 6th April 2019, 8.00am for 8.30am start

The Record: The record is [currently](#) 1,455 participants set by Dubai Police in the United Arab Emirates

Who will be there: Founder of Burpees for BYS Dave the Trainer, Pita Taufatofua and an army of participants and volunteers to help raise awareness of youth homelessness

How to register: People can register at this [link](#), registration costs \$10 per person or \$50 for a team of 10 (discounts are available for large groups)

How many Burpees you need to do: 1,500 people performing burpees together for 2 minutes to make history

Other ways to help: People can also help by making a donation to BYS and spreading the word about their participation by liking, sharing and following BYS and tagging their posts with [#burpeesforbys](#) [#endyouthhomelessness](#) [#guinnessworldrecord](#) [#countmein](#) [#registered](#) [#qyw19](#) [#unlimited](#) [#QldYouth](#)

Contact:

Georgia Searle
Communications and Marketing Coordinator
Brisbane Youth Service
gsearle@brisyouth.org or 0408 011 644