

13 April 2018

## MEDIA RELEASE

### 4,500 young people homeless every night in Queensland

Brisbane Youth Service is calling on the community to show their support for young people experiencing homelessness in Brisbane this Youth Homelessness Matters Day.

“The 2016 ABS Census figures show over 4,500 young people, aged 12-24, are facing homelessness every night in Queensland, and over 6,500 are aged 24 years and under,” said Annemaree Callander, Chief Executive Officer at Brisbane Youth Service.

“The total homelessness rate in Brisbane Inner City rose 68% from 2011 – 2016 from 1,735 to 2,915. This is unacceptable. We must take action to end homelessness by providing more housing and support to vulnerable young people.”

“Since 1977 Brisbane Youth Service has been assisting homeless and vulnerable young people and their children. Unfortunately, as the statistics show, demand for our services grows every year.”

“Youth Homelessness Matters Day on 18 April 2018 is a call out to everyone, especially those who believe in the power of community, to take action, to publicly state that youth homelessness matters, and prevention must be a priority of Government at every level.”

The 2016 ABS Census data shows that the majority of people aged 12-24 dealing with homelessness are living in ‘severely’ crowded dwellings (60%), in supported accommodation (18%), boarding houses and temporarily staying with others.

With over 30-years’ experience in the community services industry, Annemaree said, “These young people are often hidden from view, but their experience and the devastating impact on their lives is very real.”

Young people experiencing homelessness often have multiple complex issues to deal with including poor physical and mental health, low self-image, isolation, early exit from education, difficulty finding a job, poverty and debt. Brisbane Youth Service assisted 1,264 young people in 2016/17, and with their support the majority of young people were able to move out of crisis and improve their living situations.

Brisbane Youth Service are running the Burpees for BYS campaign this Youth Homelessness Matters Day – 18 April 2018. You can read more and donate to the campaign at [www.brisyouth.org/burpeesforbys](http://www.brisyouth.org/burpeesforbys).

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CEO, Annemaree Callander, is available for interview with prior arrangement.

#### For further information contact:

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