



MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2010

Youth Homelessness Matters Day in Garema Place

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 14 April 2010, as part of National Youth Week. The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs and young people aged 12 – 25 years in the ACT, is supporting this key initiative by coordinating a number of activities in Garema Place, in partnership with local youth services.

The theme for YHMD in 2010 is 'Countdown: Everyone Counts', to reflect the fact that youth homelessness affects a range of young people in different circumstances, and for different reasons.

'Youth Homelessness Matters Day is about raising the public's awareness about youth homelessness and to celebrate the resilience of young people who are experiencing homelessness in Australia,' said Emma Robertson, Director of the Youth Coalition.

'Youth Housing and Homelessness is consistently raised by Canberra youth services as one of the top three issues for young people aged 12 – 25, in the ACT.'

YHMD will be promoted in Garema Place in Civic, from 11am – 2pm today. Activities will include:

- Constructing the YHMD Tepee, created in conjunction with young people accessing youth homelessness services in the ACT and Galilee LIFT Project;
- The YWCA SCOPE Cardboard Castle Competition and Outreach Lounge ;
- BBQ Lunch, hosted by CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn;
- Collaborative street theatre performance 'I Count'; and,
- Live music, DJ, prizes and giveaway.

For more information on the activities above, please see the attached National Youth Week Calendar of Events and YHMD Flyer.

For more information on National Youth Homelessness Matters Day, visit www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net.

For further comment on National Youth Week in the ACT please contact Emma Robertson on 0422 665 469