

MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Family & Child Commission



16 April 2018

QFCC hosts youth homeless forum on Sunshine Coast

The subject of youth homelessness will be on the agenda tomorrow when the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) launches the first Regional Roundtable event at the Sunshine Coast.

The QFCC will meet with key government decision-makers and service providers at the University of Sunshine Coast in a forum to discuss the latest research on youth homelessness.

The work of leading Queensland researchers will be showcased in response to the most recent 2016 Census data on youth homelessness on the topic of 'Preventing homelessness for young people leaving out-of-home care'.

Principal Commissioner Cheryl Vardon said the QFCC has a lead role in translating research to assist policy makers and child protection practitioners and to also bring key stakeholders together to explore place-based solutions.

"Leading researchers will present to senior state and local government policy makers, key academics, practitioners and other stakeholders working in the field and will be followed by a roundtable discussion," Ms Vardon said.

"The QFCC hopes to identify and discuss effective ways of working together at a local level to address important issues facing children and young people.

"It's important to bring together local senior stakeholders to harness their collective expertise to strengthen housing and support services for young people transitioning from care to prevent them from becoming homeless."

Researchers include University of the Sunshine Coast Associate Professor Phil Crane, University of Queensland Associate Professor Cameron Parsell and University of Queensland PhD scholar Ms Madonna Boman.

"According to the 2016 Census data, there were 4,454 homeless young people across Queensland. However there may be a large number of 'hidden homeless' young people moving from household to household who are not captured in the data," Ms Vardon said.

"Secure housing is a key requirement for young people leaving care and it is crucial we continue to work together to improve the future for these young Queenslanders."

For more information and research summaries visit <https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/>

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