

**MEDIA RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Date: 08/04/14**

### **Colony 47, Making Homelessness Matter.**

Colony 47 will be marking this year's Youth Homelessness Matters Day with an awareness raising campaign highlighting the unique and complex nature of youth homelessness, and the importance of engaging with support as soon as possible when housing becomes at risk.

A BBQ will be held at our Housing Connect premises tomorrow, Wednesday 9 April, 11-2pm at 446 Elizabeth Street North Hobart. We will also be inviting young people to participate in a short documentary highlighting their experiences in accessing and maintaining independent housing, with a focus on affordability, safety and availability of accommodation.

"National Youth Week is a key time for us to ensure the issues faced by young people experiencing homelessness continue to be raised and heard" said Therese Taylor, CEO Colony 47. "Our goal for this Youth Homelessness Matters day is to elevate the voices of young people experiencing homelessness or making the transition to independent living for the first time. Young people face a number of structural barriers to accessing safe and secure independent housing, with affordability being a primary inhibitor in our current housing market. Access to support services for young people without stable accommodation is critical, particularly for those finding themselves with no family or positive social networks to turn to".

Colony 47 is the lead agency for Housing Connect in Southern Tasmania, providing a specialist service for young people seeking support with accessing accommodation. Mara House provides emergency and transitional shelter accommodation for young women aged 12 to 18 with nowhere safe to stay, and our Reconnect program supports young people and their families to rebuild relationships and maintain a positive home environment.

For further information on Colony 47s National Youth Week events or any of our youth housing programs, please contact Michael Douglas on 62141436/ 0438390011.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

When: Wednesday 9 April, 11-2pm

Where: 446 Elizabeth Street North Hobart

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**Media Information:**

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**Ends**

*Colony 47 focuses on five key areas to create a fairer community and improve the lives of disadvantaged Tasmanians. Our programs work across community development, early intervention, education and employment, housing and homelessness and mental health.*