

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 29 November 2013

Live close, learn more – CPB increasing retention rates for rural youth.

The Colony Partnership Brokers (CPB) Advisory Board and Colony 47 will launch the Student Accommodation Hobart website and guide at the TasTAFE Student Residence, 2:30pm on Thursday 5 December.

This innovative new website links young people and their families to three major accommodation options for students studying for Years 11 and 12 in Hobart and outlines financial allowances available to assist with accommodation expenses.

The Student Accommodation Hobart Website helps to address one aspect of rural and regional secondary school student needs as established in Minister McKim's *Future provision of Years 11 and 12 Minister's Action Plan*.

Colony 47 CEO Therese Taylor believes that a site such as this is long overdue for rural Tasmanian families whose children must spend hours on a bus or move into the city to access their college education.

"Simplifying this process for families by providing all the information they need on one easy to navigate website goes a long way to alleviate stress and ensure families have the tools they need to assist with the financial burden", said Ms Taylor.

"Retention rates for young people staying in student accommodation in Hobart are much greater as students have more time for study, they achieve higher grades and they can participate in a greater range of social activities."

The website is a partnership initiative between student accommodation providers, State and Catholic Colleges and Regional District High Schools in Southern Tasmania, and was designed and developed by Colony Partnership Broker.

EVENT DETAILS:

When: Thursday 5 December at 2.30PM

Where: TasTAFE Student Residence, 4a Bounty Street, Warrane

Media Information:

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Colony 47 is a Tasmanian based not for profit organisation that provides services that reduce homelessness, increase access to housing, support people with mental health issues, assist individuals in employment, training and education and strengthen and support families. Colony 47 have been quietly working for disadvantaged Tasmanians since 1973. It's a demanding job and the need for our services is ever growing. That's why we need your help.