

Friday, 8 August 2025

Building better lives for Burnie young people

Homes Tasmania CEO Eleri Morgan-Thomas joined Youth, Family and Community Connections CEO, Ros Atkinson, for the official opening of Burnie's first Youth2Independence (Y2I) facility today.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that Homes Tasmania was committed to providing young people facing major challenges with supported accommodation options with proven results.

"We know that young people can be particularly vulnerable to homelessness as they move towards adulthood, and some young people have it much harder than others," Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

"Family violence and family breakdown are the leading causes of youth homelessness that cause significant harm, and they disrupt education, the transition to employment and the development of life skills and social networks.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that the Y2I program provided affordable supported accommodation to help young people realise their ambitions and create their own future by intervening at a critical time in their lives.

"Evidence shows that young people facing homelessness can change their lives if they have accommodation, support and access to education and employment," Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

"Homes Tasmania has continued to expand the Y2I program with the fifth facility for the state now opening in Burnie, because it is based on the successful international Education First Youth Foyer program, and we know it works for young people.

"In the last year, 83 per cent of young people in the Y2I program achieved an employment outcome during their stay."

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that the official opening of the new facility during Homelessness Week was particularly meaningful.

"I am delighted that up to 26 young people on the Coast will now have a place to call home with today's official opening of Homes Tasmania's Y2I facility in Burnie," Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that the new facility would be managed by Youth, Family and Community Connections.

“Ros and the YFCC team provide a range of services to young people, families and individuals across the North-West and West coasts and are well-placed to deliver this important addition to the services available for the community,” Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

“Young people have their own unit within a communal setting that has a shared kitchen, dining room, laundry, gym, and outdoor recreational space, along with a self-contained unit for the 24/7 support staff.

“Two adjacent units have been designed so they can be connected to accommodate a young resident living with disability and their carer.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said a key element of the Y2I program was to provide access to education and training and the location between Hellyer College and the Burnie TAFE was ideal for residents.

“Residents have easy access to education and training opportunities, and it is also close to important services such as transport and medical services, and sporting, recreational and retail facilities.”

The Burnie Y2I joins four other Y2I facilities that are already successfully providing services to young Tasmanians: Thyne House in Launceston; Eveline House in Devonport; and Trinity Hill and Campbell Street in Hobart.

The Burnie Y2I facility was designed by JAWS architects and built by local contractor, Stubbs Construction.

Contact: Skye Kelly, Manager Communications and Media
Phone: 0418 394 208
Web: homestasmania.com.au