

Guy Barnett MP

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Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Member for Lyons

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Prioritising housing for Tasmanian children and young people

The Rockliff Liberal Government believes every Tasmanian deserves a roof over their head, especially vulnerable Tasmanians living without secure accommodation or sleeping rough.

“I am especially saddened that there are Tasmanian children who are experiencing homelessness, as shown in the recent Census data,” Minister Barnett said.

“It was extremely disappointing today that Labor misrepresented the Census data for vulnerable Tasmanian children. This is a sensitive and important topic that needs support from all levels of government and the community.

“The data shows that 569 Tasmanians under 18 were experiencing homelessness on Census night. This category includes those living in overcrowded houses, supported accommodation and shelters. It also includes children living with families and parents in temporary accommodation.

“The vast majority of these children were in accommodation, although that accommodation may not have been ideal. The data shows there were 13 children sleeping rough which is 13 too many.

“We know Tasmanians expect that no child should experience homelessness - that is why we are taking action.

“The Tasmanian Government funds 10 shelters and transitional accommodation with 107 units specifically offering services to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

“This is in addition to our three Youth2Independence facilities around the State. Our Government brought the Youth2Independence model to Tasmania, we piloted the Lighthouse Program and we introduced dispersed Youth2Independence housing.

“We recognise the barriers and challenges children and families can face in securing safe accommodation, which is why we invest over \$36 million each year in specialist homelessness services. It's why we have committed \$1.5 billion to deliver 10,000 social and affordable homes by 2032.

“The Rockliff Liberal Government is determined to tackle all forms of homelessness. We care deeply about our children and we are investing record amounts into housing and homelessness to ensure that all Tasmanians have a safe, affordable home,” Minister Barnett said.