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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

8 December 2022

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

Positive results from actions to support Tasmanians facing homelessness

The Rockliff Liberal Government is committed to reducing housing stress and homelessness and improving the lives of vulnerable Tasmanians.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)'s Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2021-22 released today, shows the State's specialist homelessness and support services are helping more Tasmanians in need.

The report shows our specialist homelessness services are delivering for Tasmanians, supporting over 2,300 Tasmanians in 2021-22. On an average day, there were 61 specialist homelessness services available to Tasmanians in 2021-22, provided by a range of not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

While demand is increasing for homelessness services and support, with increased requests for assistance, the report also shows our specialist homelessness services and supports are better able to meet this need than in previous years.

The annual report shows that the specialist homelessness services assisted 6,977 clients, up 6.2 per cent from 6,567 clients in 2020-21, and they provided 14,388 support periods, up 9.3 per cent from 13,164 in 2020-21.

On average there were 310 clients who spent the night in crisis accommodation in 2021-22, an increase from 287 in 2020-21 and 239 in 2019-20, which reflects an increase in accommodation available thanks to our investment in our Safe Spaces programs and crisis accommodation units.

Every Tasmanian deserves a roof over their head, and we are taking action to ensure this occurs and to support vulnerable Tasmanians.

“The Tasmanian Government knows that building a strong economy helps us invest more into these services and to be a more safe and caring community,” Minister Barnett said.

“This report confirms what we are seeing in increases in demand for homelessness support services and accommodation. It shows Tasmania’s specialist homelessness and support services work hard every day to support those most in need and I want to thank them commend them for their service.

“Increasing housing supply is critical to reducing housing stress and incidents of homelessness, which is why we have created Homes Tasmania to deliver 10,000 homes by 2032 and provide housing and homelessness services to those most in need.

“We are on track to deliver our target of 1500 homes by June 2023,” Minister Barnett said.

We know there is more to do which is why the Tasmanian Government provides an unprecedented level of funding targeting homelessness, investing more than \$36 million each year to ensure those who need help now are getting the services they need.

To help address housing supply, our 10-year, \$1.5 billion housing package will provide 10,000 homes for Tasmanians in need.

If you are at risk of homelessness, please contact Housing Connect, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 800 588.