



An Independent Community Inquiry

Dear Service Provider,

On 8 March 2007 Brian Burdekin launched the 2007 National Youth Commission into Youth Homelessness [NYC]. This is the first independent community inquiry since the landmark Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission [HREOC] inquiry headed by Commissioner Burdekin in 1989. The HREOC inquiry and the subsequent report *Our Homeless Children* stimulated national awareness and policy activity around issues of youth homelessness.

The new NYC national inquiry is funded by The Caledonia Foundation and coordinated by Youth Development Australia, a national not-for-profit organization committed to innovative programs for young people. The four Commissioners are all well-known for their contributions on the issue of homelessness. They will hold public hearings in capital cities and major regional centres throughout Australia, seeking local information about the experience of homelessness by young people, information about how our systems of support and assistance are working (or not working so well), and ideas for policy and program recommendations. There will also be opportunities for out of session input by interview or consultative meetings. In the near future, the NYC website will provide for online input.

The NYC will undertake a rigorous but broadly inclusive inquiry that will seek input from community organizations, service providers, government departments and interested individuals, and with your help, homeless young people themselves. As a community service provider, your organization will have valuable local knowledge about homeless young people. You are also well placed to have insights into some of the changes and initiations that are needed to deal with youth homelessness.

It is envisaged that the NYC inquiry will bring together the broadest and most up to date information about youth homelessness, and propose recommendations. Your action will take forward the national response to this issue.

The scheduled hearing in **Adelaide** is on **26 and 27 April** and there will also be opportunities for out of session input by interview or consultative meetings. The NYC website will also provide for online input in the near future. You can contact the NYC office to discuss the best input method that will suit your organization.

Please accept our invitation to participate in this first independent inquiry and to work collectively through what needs to be done to ameliorate and resolve the problem of youth homelessness over the next 20 years.

Yours sincerely,

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National Youth Commission
Inquiry into Youth Homelessness

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