

## Supporting young people transition to independence

**Foyer51 will support vulnerable young people, aged 18-22 who have exited out-of-home care. The program will provide young people a safe and affordable place to live while they develop the skills to lead independent and fulfilling lives.**

**Foyer51 will contain 51 studio style apartments, with extensive communal areas. Its mix of self-contained units and communal areas allows young people to learn how to live independently and positively contribute to community. Foyer51 will be staffed 24/7 by a professional team from Uniting, ensuring young people are safe and secure, and can readily access support when they need it. Young people will on average spend 18 months at Foyer51.**

### **Background**

On census night in 2011, an estimated 105,000 Australians were homeless, of which a quarter were young people aged 12-24. Homeless youth can be people who are:

- » sleeping rough (sleeping on the streets)
- » constantly moving through homeless shelters and crisis accommodation
- » staying with friends and family in unsecure and temporary accommodation.

There are many factors that contribute to young people being homeless, including:

- » housing stress
- » family breakdown, including family violence
- » untreated mental health conditions or substance use disorders
- » poor life transitions, particularly from the out-of-home care system.

By investing in young people at this time in their lives the program will improve their physical and mental health, education and development outcomes. They will also be more likely to gain employment, be independent and have secure housing.

### **Further information**

Foyer51 is based on a globally successful program and delivered at a critical development age, giving young people the chance to live an independent future.

Foyer51 will be located in Chippendale in a purpose-built centre. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2018, with the first intake of clients in 2020.

Foyer51 will be financed through a social benefit bond developed by Uniting, St George Community Housing and Social Ventures Australia in partnership with the Office of Social Impact Investment and the Department of Family and Community Services.

The bond will not be launched until the construction of the accommodation is nearing completion.