



## BIG HEARTS NEEDED FOR TINY HOMES

### Problem

Noosa-Sunshine Coast is a popular holiday destination, but a tough place to live for many young people to settle due to extreme housing costs, low average wages, social housing shortage and high rental competition. Add to this, COVID-19 impacts of business closures, unemployment and health concerns, 2020 has seen more local people and particularly young people experiencing homelessness.



### The Facts

- It may amaze you to learn that Noosa-Sunshine Coast housing cost to average income (9:3)<sup>1</sup>, one of the worst in Australia.
- Over the January-March 2020 quarter, 249 young people presented to Noosa-Sunshine Coast homelessness services<sup>2</sup>
- Just because you don't see people sleeping rough in our streets doesn't mean our community is immune to the problem, and there is just not enough affordable accommodation available to us to help home our young people.
- Over half of young people under the age of 25 receiving support from homeless services slept rough at least once prior to turning 18. The most common form of homelessness among young people is couch-surfing<sup>3</sup>
- More than 1 in 6 young people across Australia (17%) reported having an experience of homelessness<sup>6</sup>
- Anyone can experience homelessness with unplanned life events (health, job loss, family breakdown) putting many of us at-risk, and only a few small steps away from needing support or being homeless. The number of Australians aged 18 to 24 who experienced higher levels of housing stress increased threefold between April and May 2020, from 10.3% to 27.5%<sup>4</sup>
- Young service industry employees have been hit hard by Covid-19 impacts, and while the requirements for Job Keeper change in September our local economy will be much slower to recover<sup>5</sup>
- Homeless persons will often experience poor mental health, poverty, trauma, substance abuse, social isolation and are victims of crime. Early intervention is needed to break the cycle.

<sup>1</sup>CoreLogic 2016, Housing Affordability Report, December

<sup>2</sup>Sunshine Coast Local Level Alliance, Youth Homelessness Report 2020

<sup>3</sup>The Cost of Homelessness in Australia report

<sup>4</sup>The Australian National University, Covid-19 Data, <https://csrcm.cass.anu.edu.au/research/publications/covid-19>

<sup>5</sup>National Retailers Association, <https://www.nra.net.au/uncategorized/youth-unemployment-and-the-retail-industry/>

<sup>6</sup>Staying Home: a youth survey report on young people's experience of homelessness, Mission Australia 2020

