

## **Solving homelessness with local action**

Leading northern Sydney community housing provider, Link Housing, is taking positive action to help with an often unseen and unrecognised problem – homeless youth on the Northern Beaches. The organisation is hosting ‘Home Sweet 2017’ a charity sleepover at Freshwater Surf Lifesaving Club, on the night of **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Aiming to raise more than \$100,000, the inaugural event is already over \$77,000 with two weeks to go until the big night.

“Right now on the Northern Beaches, there are an estimated 200 young people without a permanent home,” says Andrew McNulty, Link Housing Chief Executive Officer. “They’re the ‘hidden homeless’ - living in cars and on couches. By raising awareness and funds, we can help provide them with a safe, secure home, and the support and training to equip them for happier lives.”

It was time for some positive action, says Mr McNulty. “There’s been so much talk about affordability and rental stress but while all that is going on, there are people struggling to survive. We wanted to make a real difference at ground level, where it’s needed.

All funds raised by the sleepover go to The Burdekin Association, who has been housing, counselling and training young people in need on the Northern Beaches for more than three decades. Fundraising for the Burdekin was a natural progression, says Mr McNulty. “Link Housing and the Burdekin have been working together for 25 years supplying accommodation and support to youth in need. We want to support them to expand and help more young people in need.”

For more information and to register for the sleepover, go to <https://homesweet.raisely.com/>

**Home Sweet 2017 – Charity sleepover for homeless youth**

**6pm Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> until 9am Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club.**