

Media Release



For immediate release

SAMARITANS LAUNCHES WINTER APPEAL TO ADDRESS INVISIBLE CRISIS

CEO of Samaritans, Peter Gardiner is calling on the Hunter community to support the Samaritans Winter Appeal and help address the invisible crisis of youth homelessness.

“There has been significant media coverage and community conversation around Australia’s homelessness crisis recently- we’re asking the community to help us provide a solution by supporting Samaritans to maintain safe and appropriate accommodation for young people in need,” Mr Gardiner said.

“Youth homelessness is an invisible crisis- each year, in the Hunter alone, we support over 1400 young people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk. They are leaving home because it’s simply unsafe, but we have an opportunity to do something about it through this year’s Appeal,” he said.

A voice for someone who is working with young people to help address the homelessness crisis is Clare, Samaritans Youth Case Worker.

“Many of the young people that we assist come from a traumatic background most having witnessed or experienced domestic violence or family breakdown. In most cases, there’s no one to support them, there’s no option for safe and stable accommodation and so they end up on the streets, sleeping in cars or couch surfing with friends.

“Samaritans is working hard to provide holistic, wrap around services to help these young people move through tough times and achieve their dreams, but we need your support to do this,” Clare said.

“I’ve been working with Samaritans Specialist Youth Homelessness Services in the Hunter for over five years now. I love the fact that I have an opportunity to help young people in need organising a safe place for them to sleep, a home, a bed. I love that we can make someone’s day, just by being there with them,” Clare said.

“Samaritans is aiming to raise an additional \$40,000 in these winter months. Please give what you can- any donation big or small goes a long way toward making a difference. Samaritans needs your support to keep assisting young people and families this Winter,” Mr Gardiner said.

To donate to the Samaritans Winter Appeal go to www.samaritans.org.au/donate or call 1300 656 336.

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Media Contact: Please contact Penny Harnett from the Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7149 to arrange an interview or photograph opportunity. Peter Gardiner is available for comment on Thursday.