

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Early intervention is key to fighting homelessness in Yass

New case manager at the Anglicare Rae Burgess crisis housing service in Yass, Amanda Green, says that mental illness, domestic violence, shame and a fear of FACS intervention are some of the reasons people avoid asking for housing help until it's too late.

"The cost of living in Yass is high and many individuals and families are struggling financially," says Ms Green. "Often people ignore the warning signs and wait too long before seeking help. People need to approach services like Anglicare before they reach crisis point. Our emergency food pantry is one of the ways we can assist before a situation becomes critical."

Stressful times of year such as pre and post-Christmas can lead to an increase in family breakdown, domestic violence and mental health issues putting people at greater risk of housing stress and homelessness, which is why seeking help early is especially important.

According to Anglicare's most recent Rental Affordability Snapshot, no private rental housing in Yass were found to be affordable for anyone relying on government support payments. Finding accommodation at short notice can be difficult. Temporary accommodation is available in Yass, but these options can be at capacity.

"If someone is at a point where they are choosing between paying the rent and being able to afford food, they need to ask for help," says Ms Green. "Anglicare has established great partnerships with other support agencies in the area, and our goal is to provide both the emergency help, but also long term assistance to address underlying issues and see them on a path where they are no longer at risk."

The team at the Anglicare Rae Burgess centre currently assist several clients each day through booked appointments, drop in visits and home visits.

Anglicare's Regional Manager of Housing and Social Services, Toni Reay, sees the appointment of Ms Green as a very exciting step for the Yass service. "Amanda has a real heart for this community and though she is the newest addition to the team she already been doing some great work with our clients."

*The service operates Monday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm.*



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### Yass

Including Yass, Murrumbateman, Bookham

On the Snapshot day, these are no. of unique properties that are affordable and appropriate for:	
households on income support payment	household on minimum wage
0	18

Household Type	Payment Type	# Affordable & Appropriate	% Affordable & Appropriate
Couple, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Newstart Allowance (both adults)	0	0%
Single, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Parenting Payment Single	0	0%
Couple, no children	Age Pension	0	0%
Single, one child (aged less than 5)	Parenting Payment Single	0	0%
Single, one child (aged over 8)	Newstart Allowance	0	0%
Single	Age Pension	0	0%
Single aged over 21	Disability Support Pension	0	0%
Single	Newstart Allowance	0	0%
Single aged over 18	Youth Allowance	0	0%
Single in share house	Youth Allowance	0	0%
Couple, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Minimum Wage + FTB A	18	53%
Single, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Minimum Wage + FTB A & B	0	0%
Single	Minimum Wage	0	0%



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Couple, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Minimum Wage + Parenting payment (partnered) + FTB A&B	3	9%
<b>Total No of Properties</b>	<b>34</b>		

