

twin ships carried more freight. TT-Line was tracking sailings across the strait. But freight volumes were

Housing hell for youth

ANNIE McCANN

UNEMPLOYED youths have presented their report to the government asking for a commitment to housing solutions for Tasmania's struggling young people.

Nearly 70 young people between 15 and 24 responded to a survey for The Real Youth Survival Report 2020 as part of Colony 47's Anti-Poverty Week Backswing project.

Results found 35 per cent had experienced homelessness, with 38 per cent feeling they were at risk of homelessness.

Major reasons for their concerns included unaffordable rent, living with domestic violence and conflicts between family, housemates or landlords.

Shaun Bugg, 19, helped prepare the report. The Centrelink recipient said he lived "basically in poverty" with his family.

"I've got to move out soon, so that's even worse," he said.

"It costs so much to live (in Tasmania), you'd be better off on the mainland."

Mr Bugg said he hoped the government would listen more to young people when making decisions.

Federal independent MP for Clark Andrew Wilkie said the

"humanised" and "shocking" stories from respondents were important to share.

"We need to work so much harder to address the specific challenges of the young homeless and unemployed," he said.

"They skip meals, couch surf and can't afford to see a doctor. They're in financial stress and their mental health suffers."

Mr Wilkie said the situation would only worsen when Job-Seeker reduced again on December 31.

Colony 47 CEO Danny Sutton said he hoped to see more innovative youth housing solutions, and called on the state government to allocate \$25m of its recent \$100m social housing supply to youth housing.

Housing Minister Roger Jaensch said the government was putting "record amounts" into housing programs.

He said two new Youth Foyers were set to be created by the end of 2022, while Thyne House in Launceston would receive 20 one-bedroom units and the Youth at Risk project would provide short-term accommodation for under-16s.

Mr Jaensch said a pilot program delivered 43 demountable units into public housing property backyards in June.

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