MY CHANCE, OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW ENGLAND & NORTH WEST REGION REACHES 13.8%.

Unemployed young people will be given a new voice in the New England and North West regions with the launch today of My Chance, Our Future – a new campaign highlighting the urgent issue of youth unemployment.

The unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 in the New England and North West area is sitting at an unacceptable 13.8%, according to new data from the ABS. With youth unemployment nearing crisis point in the New England and North West, Youth Connections provider - EACH social and community health, welcomes attention to this urgent issue.

“Youth Connections knows better than most how tough it is for our young people to get a job in the New England and North West areas of NSW so this campaign is sorely needed”, said Youth Connections New England Service Manager, Wendy Cabot.

“We also know how much damage unemployment can do to our young people and to our local community. We need this issue on the radar in the New England and North West and the My Chance, Our Future campaign will help do that”, Ms Cabot said.

“Around 1 in 4 young Australians is neither working nor studying full time. These young people really need our help to get that first job, so Youth Connections services are really vital for the local community”, Ms Cabot said.

As part of the campaign, the Brotherhood of St Laurence welfare group has today released its new Youth Unemployment Monitor, setting out the key facts as well as the human stories of youth unemployment from young people.

“At Youth Connections we really encourage anyone in our local community who is concerned about youth unemployment to sign up to the new campaign so we can really start to tackle this growing problem together,” Ms Cabot said.

More information is available at the Brotherhood of St Laurence’s website: www.bsl.org.au

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