

# Press Release



## EXPERT PANEL HONOURED TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

### Panel to judge Australia's Best Cubby announced

**23 November 2016 | MEL:** Youth homelessness prevention charity Kids Under Cover today announced the celebrity judging panel who will review each of the custom built cubbies vying for the title of Australia's Best Cubby at the Cubby House Challenge event at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in March 2017.

2017 sees the introduction of a panel of industry experts to judge the Cubby House Challenge. Inaugural judge Peter Maddison, host of **Lifestyle Channel's *Grand Designs Australia*** is now joined by Joe Snell, architect and judge on **Channel 7's *House Rules***; interior designer Fiona Lynch; Lucy Feagins, editor of ***The Design Files***; and Alice Stolz, **National Managing Editor of *Domain***.

The foremost experts in play, children themselves, will be ably assisting the judging panel to award the categories of Australia's Best Cubby, Melbourne's Best Cubby, Best Architectural Cubby, Best Interior Designed Cubby, Most Imaginative Cubby and Kid's Choice.

After receiving a record level of interest from firms from across Australia, Kids Under Cover selected the final five build and design teams for 2017:

- **FMSA Architecture** in collaboration with **RMIT**
- **Grimshaw** architecture, the Melbourne branch of the international architecture agency, in partnership with **Warrick Home Builders**
- **Playce**, a Melbourne playspace design and landscape architectural consultants partnering with **Agency of Sculpture**
- **Porter Davis**, Melbourne house designers and homebuilders
- One of Australia's largest construction experts, **Probuild**

Each of the five teams will design cubbies they would have loved to play in as children, and in some cases, have consulted children in the creation of their designs. The firms are now set with the task of finalising their designs, and building the cubby houses to be ready for display, judgment and auction in March 2017.

This year's judging panel were all selected for their knowledge, expertise and experience within building and design, real estate and the wellbeing of young people, along with their willingness to volunteer and commit their time to the judging process.

"All of the 2017 judging panel have expressed a real interest in our work and a passion for helping to raise awareness of the issue of youth homelessness, contributing to the success of this popular event," Jo Swift, CEO of Kids Under Cover said. "We're looking forward to watching the development of the individual cubbies as the build teams begin construction and ultimately seeing which cubby is deemed to be Australia's Best."

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For further information, please contact:

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“The funds raised, through the auction of these cubbies and with the support of Gandel Philanthropy, contribute to the crucial work of Kids Under Cover. In 2017, our goal is to raise a record \$150,000. All funds raised are directed towards keeping at-risk young people in contact with their families and networks.”

The judging panel and selected architecture and build teams have all expressed their excitement at having the opportunity to participate in the Cubby House Challenge in 2017.

“Having a safe place to grow and play is essential for children. I love everything about this charity; the assistance it gives to those who need it most and also for the opportunity it presents in allowing children to indulge and play in the most wonderful and clever cubby houses,” judge Alice Stolz said. “It’s also a pertinent reminder to designers, architects and builders of what is really important when it comes to a house: the simplicity of security and shelter, and where possible, the flourish of clever and creative design.”

Longtime Kids Under Cover supporter and inaugural judge, Peter Maddison, echoed these sentiments, adding that “the Cubby House Challenge is an inspiring event that motivates designers, architects, builders and auctioneers to 'face off,' all vying to outdo each other in a philanthropic atmosphere. In fact, my architectural office has designed two cubbies and I can say it was so good for office morale and good fun. The Cubby House Challenge is also great for raising awareness for all the other good Kids Under Cover programs like the Donate Your Car® program.”

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