

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 9 September 2015 (media launch 10:30am)

Australia's first Better Shelter and PLAY UP come together to highlight the rights of our children

A brand new pop-up exhibition in the first ever Better Shelter to be built on Australian shores will explore the Right to Shelter by encouraging families to consider the importance of 'home'.

The innovative temporary exhibition, *Pop-Up PLAY UP* is the result of an exciting new partnership between the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MOADOPH) and the IKEA Foundation. This pop-up exhibition will be hosted in Australia's first Better Shelter – a weatherproof temporary shelter that offers a more dignified home for displaced persons. Better Shelter is currently in use in Iraq, Ethiopia, Nepal and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The exhibition from which *Pop-Up PLAY UP* was inspired; *PLAY UP—The Right to Shelter* will be on display at MOADOPH until August 2016, whilst *Pop-Up PLAY UP* will be on display at Floriade from 11am–3pm daily, Saturday 12 September to Monday 5 October 2015.

PLAY UP—The Right to Shelter engages families to explore the rights to shelter as stated in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN, 1995)*, by asking visitors to think about their own rights and those of other children around the world.

Pop-Up PLAY UP will feature a range of interactive activities to engage families in the rights of the child, including building challenges, reading and activity spaces, and a virtual reality film 'Clouds Over Sidra' which takes the viewer through the experience of life in a refugee camp.

Jonathan Spampinato, Head of Strategic Planning and Communications at IKEA Foundation said, "The Better Shelter is a great example of how democratic design can create better lives for the many. All of us at the IKEA Foundation are excited and honoured to be working with the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House to share with Australians our vision of how together we can create a safer place to call home for refugee children."

Daryl Karp, Director at MOADOPH, said *PLAY UP* has been one of the Museum's most popular spaces for families and the new exhibition will help them explore the rights of children around the world.

"*PLAY UP—The Right to Shelter* and *Pop-Up PLAY UP* deliver important messages through playful learning that celebrates the role that children have in our communities."

"This is the first time that a Better Shelter has been built in Australia and our partnership with the IKEA Foundation provides us with the opportunity to use the Better Shelter to engage with families at Floriade through *Pop-Up PLAY UP*."

"We are pleased to be welcoming the team from the IKEA Foundation and Better Shelter here in Canberra who are supporting the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House with the set-up of the shelter," she said.

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“Through *Pop-Up PLAY UP*, families can explore Better Shelter, take part in hands-on adventures that make what can be a serious topic, into a fun and meaningful experience,” said Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Community Learning Coordinator at MOADOPH.

For more information on *PLAY UP—The Right to Shelter and Pop-Up PLAY UP*, visit moadoph.gov.au

Ends

For further information, interviews or photos opportunities please contact:
Kate Connor, Kate.Connor@moadoph.gov.au, 02 6270 8118 or 0451 970 761

MEDIA LAUNCH DETAILS

Where: King’s Hall, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

When: Wednesday 9 September 2015, 10.30am. Media are invited from 10.00am for pre-launch filming and interview opportunities.

What: Launch of Better Shelter and *PLAY UP—The Right to Shelter*. The team from Better Shelter in Sweden and the IKEA Foundation in Holland will be supporting the set-up of the Better Shelter in Canberra and will be at the launch.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Community Learning Coordinator, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Marta Terne, Head of Marketing and Communications, Better Shelter, Sweden
- Jonathan Spampinato, Head of Strategic Planning and Communications, IKEA Foundation, Holland
- Johan Karlsson, Head of Business Development at Better Shelter, Sweden (Johan is in Sweden, phone interview only, can be arranged at a suitable time)

ABOUT BETTER SHELTER

Better Shelter is a weatherproof temporary shelter that offers a more dignified home for displaced persons as well as a cost-effective solution for humanitarian organisations.

Better Shelter aims to improve the living conditions of displaced persons across the world. The social enterprise develops and provides innovative housing solutions for persons displaced by conflicts and natural disasters, and is the result of a partnership between IKEA Foundation, UNHCR and Better Shelter.

In 2015 UNHCR signed an agreement to deploy 30,000 shelters for its operations worldwide. Better Shelter is currently in the field in Iraq, Ethiopia, Nepal and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

<http://www.bettershelter.org/>
<http://www.ikeafoundation.org/better-shelter/>