



Call for all political leaders to make a commitment to ending homelessness

Despite good economic conditions and low unemployment, approximately 123,000 people are homeless or marginally housed on any given night.

With this week's ALP funding announcement and pledge to set an interim target to halve the current turn away rate from supported accommodation services within five years, homelessness has been placed on the political agenda.

Homelessness Australia and the Council to Homeless Persons, two major peak bodies, will today launch strategies for Government to prevent and respond to homelessness.

A representative of Community Services Minister, Senator Nigel Scullion and the Shadow Minister Ms Tanya Plibersek will discuss their parties' policies on homelessness.

"Homeless services are chronically under-funded. Annually, thousands of people are turned away from services because there is no immediate accommodation available", said Executive Officer of Homelessness Australia, Simon Smith.

"Homelessness is a national problem, an incoming Government will have a key leadership role to play in shaping the policy direction and commitment to resolve this issue", said Deb Tsorbaris, CEO, Council to Homeless Persons

Homelessness is an issue in all regions of Australia including major cities, regional centres and rural areas. It affects people from all stages of the life cycle including children, young people, single adults, families with children and older people.

Homelessness Australia promotes national action to reduce homelessness and its impact on the diverse range of people it affects through proactive research and advocacy. The Council to Homeless Persons represents all people who have a stake in homelessness including services and people who have experienced homelessness in Victoria.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Homelessness Australia/Council to Homeless Persons Policy Launch
9:30am to 10:30am, 9 November at Sacred Heart Mission, 87 Grey St, St Kilda

For media comment:

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