



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET DELIVERS SUPPORT TO THOSE AT RISK

The peak body for homelessness welcomes the 2010/11 Federal Budget's commitment to social and affordable housing, and to the welfare of many Australians vulnerable to homelessness, among them women and children escaping domestic violence, pensioners and young people.

The Budget delivers on the Government's commitment to the single largest investment in public housing in recent history. It also confirms the commitment of Federal, state and territory governments to halving homelessness by 2020 through the Homelessness National Partnership and the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

"The \$130.5 million in Commonwealth funding in 2010/11 for new homelessness initiatives to be implemented under the National Partnership on Homelessness will contribute to reducing the personal and social costs of homelessness", Policy and Research Officer Travis Gilbert said.

Homelessness Australia also welcomes the \$1.3 billion allocated to the construction of new social housing properties in 2010/11

"Coupled with the significant allocation of funding for new homelessness programs and services, the allocation of \$1.3 billion in funding for the construction of new social housing properties under the social housing stimulus package will add significantly to the housing options available to people who are experiencing homelessness" Mr Gilbert said.

Homelessness Australia welcomed the increase in pension payments announced last year but is disappointed that Australians reliant on other income support payments have again missed out on any significant increase.

"Homelessness Australia welcomed the increase in pension payments announced last year but we are disappointed that other income support recipients have been denied any significant increase in income support. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Australians on income support to meet the cost of weekly rents particularly in our major cities" Mr Gilbert said.

"On Budget Night, 105,000 Australians are homeless. There are positive commitments in this Budget that will assist those who are experiencing homelessness to access the help they need and boost the number of affordable housing options available, we look forward to working with the Government over the next decade as we strive to halve homelessness by 2020" Mr Gilbert said

For further information and comment, please contact:

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