



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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Election 2010: Ending Homelessness- Don't Stop Now

Homelessness Australia has appealed to all political parties to continue to work with the homelessness sector, Government, the private sector and the broader community to end homelessness in Australia.

"...Homelessness Australia believes that ending homelessness is not only possible but necessary. We know that homelessness can be solved and that the process starts with ensuring that people have access to housing they can afford..." Homelessness Australia's Chairperson Narelle Clay said.

Homelessness Australia is also calling for an increase income support and Commonwealth Rent Assistance payments to ensure that vulnerable Australians can maintain their housing and meet the costs of living.

"...We are urging all political parties to commit to increasing income support payments by \$45 a week and Commonwealth Rent Assistance by \$15 a week. The pension increase was welcomed but other income support recipients missed out. They are really struggling to meet the costs of housing..." Mr Gilbert said.

Homelessness Australia urged all political parties to sign up to the target of halving homelessness by 2020 and building on the commitments made in the White Paper on homelessness.

"...The White Paper and the additional resources that came with it are a great start. We are seeking a commitment from all political parties to sign up to the target of halving homelessness by 2020 and to increase funding for programs and service models that have been proven to prevent homelessness before it starts and intervene early before homelessness becomes entrenched..." Narelle Clay said.

Homelessness Australia is also calling for an extension in the life of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness beyond 2013.

"...We urge all political parties to help those working at the coal face by strengthening the homelessness service system and providing a minimum of \$840 million over 5 years for emerging programs and services beyond the life of the National Partnership Agreement which ends in 2013... We also need to strengthen the homelessness service system and provide increased support to frontline staff in homelessness services" Mr Gilbert said.

To view our election statement please visit: www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

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