



Homelessness Australia

*Creating a framework for ending homelessness*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

T 02 6247 7744 F 02 6247 1649 E [media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au](mailto:media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 13/12/2011**

### **HOMELESSNESS PEAK WELCOMES ELEVATION**

Homelessness Australia, the National Peak Body representing providers of homelessness services welcomes the appointment of the Honourable Robert McClelland MP as the new Minister for Housing and Homelessness within Cabinet.

Homelessness Australia's CEO, Nicole Lawder is pleased to see that the Government has elevated housing and homelessness to Cabinet.

"It is encouraging to see that the sector has been listened to. We have said for a number of years now that given the scale of the affordable housing shortage and in reflection of the importance placed on reducing homelessness at a national level, that the Minister responsible should have a seat at the Cabinet table. We welcome the elevation of housing and homelessness to Cabinet". Ms Lawder said.

Homelessness Australia's Chairperson Narelle Clay said the peak body had enjoyed a constructive working relationship with previous Ministers and looked forward to working with Minister McClelland in the future.

"We have enjoyed working closely with Minister Arbib and Minister Plibersek who have shown great leadership in the portfolios of housing and homelessness and we look forward to working closely with Minister McClelland and his office" Ms Clay said.

The peak body said two important targets for the reduction of homelessness are due to be met in 2013 and it was vital that the new Minister worked in partnership with the homelessness sector to achieve them.

"The Australian Government set two bold interim targets to reduce overall homelessness by 20% and rough sleeping by 25%, we look forward to providing advice to and working in partnership with the Minister to ensure we achieve these important targets by 2013" Narelle Clay said.

For further information and comment, please contact:

**Nicole Lawder, CEO Homelessness Australia: MB 0404 037 177**

**Narelle Clay, AM, Chairperson, Homelessness Australia 0412 999 960**