



# Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CPRS compensation: good start but more action needed on energy efficiency**

The Brotherhood of St Laurence today congratulated the Federal Government on taking action on climate change and said it was pleased to see a substantial commitment to compensating low income households for the extra expenses that will occur as a result of the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

“It is good to see that half of the revenue from the sale of CPRS permits will go to compensating households. The comprehensive direct-compensation package outlined in the White Paper will offset many of the price impacts of the scheme on low income households,” said Tony Nicholson, Executive Director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

However Mr Nicholson also highlighted the need for a new investment in energy efficiency retrofits for the homes of people on low incomes to help them cope with the impact of both a changing climate and the CPRS itself.

“Our research suggests that up to 3.5 million homes should be retrofitted nationally. The implementation of a large energy efficiency program should be a key element of any package that is designed to assist low income households adjust to climate change and the CPRS.”

Mr Nicholson said the Brotherhood also suggested that a greater investment in energy efficiency programs would have a wide range of benefits.

“For example, large energy efficiency programs could employ thousands of job seekers and give them skills to participate in a low-carbon labour market. This is particularly important at a time when other jobs are disappearing from the economy.

“Energy efficiency programs also make permanent improvements to the homes of low income people. This allows them not only to cut their energy use but also to mitigate the effects of climate change already occurring.

“We call on the Government to increase its commitment to energy efficiency programs. The Brotherhood stands ready to assist in the implementation of energy efficiency programs in low income households.”

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The research paper on the plan to retrofit 3.5 million homes by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and KPMG, “A national energy efficiency program to assist low-income households”, September 2008, is at:  
[http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/KPMG\\_national\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_program\\_low-income\\_households.pdf](http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/KPMG_national_energy_efficiency_program_low-income_households.pdf)