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## Desperate times call for desperate measures Federal budget 2009

“Desperate times call for desperate measures. Unfortunately there is little in this year’s budget for those who are truly desperate” said Executive Director Kasy Chambers.

“Anglicare Australia welcomes the overall direction of this budget – taking for the high end of town and delivering it to the low end. However this doesn’t go low enough. We are concerned about those Australians living on Newstart Allowance and Sole Parenting Payment.” Ms Chambers said.

“The recession is time for those Australians faring better to dig deep and show that we are not only a strong resilient and united nation as Wayne Swan said, but also a generous one: one that supports those having the hardest time and struggling the most.”

Newstart payments equate to approximately \$11,250 per annum; Single Parent Pension (SPP) to \$14,250.

“Its one thing to think about living on \$250 a week for one week but when you do that for a year or more many everyday, normal things go out of the window” Ms Chambers said. “Items such as a car service, a dental check up or repairs to a broken washing machine become impossible. School uniforms, money for school excursions or activities just don’t happen. It is hard, near impossible to include yourself in Australian society on these amounts.”

We hope that this is a temporary oversight rather than permanent omission in what are very difficult economic times for governments across the globe. We look forward to working with the government to explore the best ways to assist these Australians.”

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Anglicare Australia is the peak body for a national network of locally based Anglican care organisations serving the needs of disadvantaged Australians and their communities.

The Anglicare network provides a wide range of services to people in need; and works to address issues of injustice across the nation. In 2007 Anglicare agencies served over 426,000 clients in rural, remote, regional and urban communities using the services of 12,000 staff and 20,000 volunteers and spending over \$570 million.

### THE VOICE FOR ANGLICAN CARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA

This statement represents the views of Anglicare Australia, as the national peak body of the Anglicare network. It may not necessarily represent the views of the Anglican Church of Australia or the views of an individual member of the Anglicare Australia network.