

Monday 31 May 2010

Who benefits?

Executive Director of Anglicare Australia Kasy Chambers has pointed to new research from The Australia Institute as evidence that government assistance isn't reaching those who it's intended for, and that a fresh approach is needed.

"As a society, we provide government assistance for good reason. Such as helping people who are caring for others, supporting parents, and making things easier for those on pensions" Kasy Chambers said today.

"But a lot of people who are entitled to that help don't get it, either because they don't know about it or they are too embarrassed to ask.

"That's a mean way for our government to 'save' money.

"The Australia Institute's 'Missing Out' research shows us that a lot of people don't claim the assistance they are entitled to, and that it is often the people likely to most need the help who don't get it.

"We have system that discriminates against people without the skills to handle a bureaucracy. That needs to be changed.

"If we as a society believe we should provide concessions and assistance to people recently bereaved, caring for others, or living on pensions, then surely we ought to make sure it actually gets to them as well.

"As the Henry Review pointed out, the current system is complicated, inconsistent and inequitable. As 'Missing Out' makes clear, it's also a particularly thoughtless approach to social welfare.

"We'd like to see welfare and assistance which is simple, fair, adequate and easy to access. Neither of the major parties seem interested in putting that on the agenda for the election right now. Perhaps this research will help them think about why it is so important" Ms Chambers said.

MEDIA CONTACT

ROLAND MANDERSON 041 2241379 (02) 62301775

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.