

GPO Box 1307 Canberra ACT 2601

**Contact:** Kasy Chambers  
(Executive Director)  
0401 494 380

## Well off should dig deeper

# Well off should dig deeper for those suffering

Anglicare Australia today called on the Rudd government to stand strong on its plans to make fairer the private health insurance incentives. Anglicare Australia further called on opposition members to explain to those Australians struggling on low incomes why public help should continue to flow to those on high incomes choosing to pay for private health insurance.

Anglicare agencies across the country see people struggling to make ends meet on single pensions, Newstart allowance and disability support pensions. Since the start of the downturn they have also been meeting increased demand for emergency relief from families having difficulties in meeting the mortgage or rental payments with decreased wages or cut backs in hours.

"It is very hard to sit in one of our emergency relief centres and see people explaining how hard they are trying to stretch their budget when politicians are discussing whether to vote against moves to make savings from the high end of town". Executive Director Kasy Chambers said today.

"Anglicare Australia praised the budget's overall flavour – redistributing public spending from those at the high end of town to those at the lower end. We still want to work with the government to look at increases for those Australians on the lowest income – Newstart but we also appeal to the opposition to retain the measures around private health insurance incentives." Said Ms Chambers.

"This rebate disproportionately favours high income earners and we're sure that those Australians better able to weather the storm of these economic times will want to shoulder the responsibility of a civil society and make a sacrifice for those who are not as well insulated against this crisis." said Ms Chambers.

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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 2007-08 Anglicare agencies served over 512,340 clients in rural, remote, regional and urban communities using the services of 12,000 staff and 21,000 volunteers and spending over \$624 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.