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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **MAJOR CHURCH PROVIDERS ASK COAG TO DISCUSS IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CRISIS ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

Major Church providers say the impact of the global financial crisis on families and communities must be added as an emergency item on this weekend's CoAG meeting agenda.

Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, the Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia made the call following a meeting of leaders and decision makers at Parliament House in Canberra this week, where they launched the Access Economics paper, *The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Social Services in Australia*.

Many Australians face a significant period of disadvantage if initiatives are not put in place now to ensure the impact of the global financial crisis is minimised. We need to ensure people who lose their jobs do not lose their homes and slide into welfare dependency.

The group has called for an injection of \$300 million a year for three years in addition to existing money to provide relief for individuals and families facing hardship resulting from the impact of the global financial crisis.

These are unique times which call for a one-off injection of funds to augment existing services to meet the increasing demand.

The group has also called for a seat on the Infrastructure Australia Board and will take a detailed plan to the Prime Minister in the weeks ahead.

Spokespeople from the four major church providers include:

**Anglicare Australia**

**Catholic Social Services Australia**

**Salvation Army**

**UnitingCare Australia**

Kasy Chambers, Executive Director

Frank Quinlan, Executive Director

David Eldridge, Territorial Social Programme

Secretary, Australia Southern Territory

Lin Hatfield-Dodds, National Director

A copy of the paper is available at: [www.catholicsocialservices.org.au](http://www.catholicsocialservices.org.au)

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