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MEDIA RELEASE

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Rein in tax cuts and spread the load of the recession

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Anglicare Australia today called for the Federal Government to rein in tax cuts for those better able to weather the current economic downturn in the budget and distribute the money instead to those on low incomes including those on Sole Parent Pension and Newstart Allowance.

“A global recession is no time to hit those already struggling harder.” Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers said today. “It is the time for those that are already better off to make a small sacrifice; as Australians that’s what a socially inclusive civil society is all about.”

Anglicare agencies across the country are seeing a huge increase in demand for their emergency services and those on low incomes are the hardest hit. “We are aware of rumours that Australians living on Sole Parenting Payment will be excluded from rises in the pension rates. This oversight condemns these children and their families to a lower standard of living for yet another year” said Ms Chambers.

“Single people on Newstart Allowance receive \$227 a week, with the ranks of the unemployed forecast to grow not increasing this allowance will see more Australians excluded from many of the things most of us take for granted, the very hallmarks of Australian life.”

“Australians understand that this is now a different time to when the tax cuts commitment was made, and that the government is in a difficult place with this budget; they expect a government to “cut its cloth” to the circumstances and times.” Ms Chambers said.

Anglicare Australia recognises that increasing the Newstart Allowance and Sole Parent Pension will affect the bottom line and suggests other areas possible savings as the private health insurance rebates and superannuation concessions to high income earners.

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 492,000 clients in rural, remote, regional and urban communities using the services of 12,000 staff and 20,000 volunteers and spending over \$585 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.

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