

MEDIA RELEASE 9 Aug 2010

Key sector commitment welcome

Anglicare Australia welcomed Labor's campaign announcement of promised reform for the community sector today.

"The community sector is a vital part of the Australian society and economy. Anglicare Australia is calling for the Opposition to commit to making these reforms a bi-partisan reality" Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers said.

"Anglicare Australia has been working with government on its partnership with the community sector through the Productivity Commission process, the Community Response Taskforce and by supporting the development of a Government Compact with the sector as whole.

"Along with the other Major Church Providers, Anglicare Australia has been collecting data to help the government understand the growing pressures on the services our members run.

"It is now widely recognised that the community sector plays an absolutely vital role in the development and delivery of social services throughout Australia. That is why it makes so much sense to remove the rafts of red tape imposed on our services by different governments and departments, making the whole funding and accountability relationship simple and transparent. And that is why it will help everyone in Australia if the sector has a real voice in shaping this reform, as promised today.

"Anglicare services support one in forty Australians; the changes to contracts alone will allow more of that support to go directly to those vulnerable people and less time to be spent in red tape. Some organisations may operate up to 40 contracts with the federal government each with differing requirements, definitions and timelines. Translating complex arrangements such as that into a common contract would be a major reform that would aid our overworked services to better deliver on the ground".

Some of the social problems confronted by Anglicare services with marginalised and vulnerable Australians are deeply embedded in our society. Across Australia we are involved in the development of innovative local responses to these challenges. The Government's promised support for social innovation and improved access to capital is most welcome.

"Anglicare Australia calls on the Opposition to give bipartisan support for this more collaborative, cross government approach to social policy development, and to regulation and support for the community sector" Ms Chamber said.

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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. Authorised by Roland Manderson for ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA Jamieson House 43 Constitution Ave Reid ACT 2612 T: 02 6230 1775 anglicare@anglicare.asn.au www.anglicare.asn.au