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MEDIA RELEASE

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AIHW report sets the agenda for Government

The AIHW report launched in Canberra yesterday confirms the daily work of Anglicare Australia agencies. Despite a decade of economic growth the report shows that inequity in the distribution of that growth is increasing.

“There are too many Australians who are missing out on Australia’s prosperity” Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers said today. “The AIHW report shows, with solid data, that those Australians that have disabilities; Indigenous Australians; young people; single parents; those on low incomes and older Australians are amongst the most vulnerable.”

“This confirms the daily work of our 12,000 staff and 20,000 volunteers around the country” Ms Chambers said. “This report sets an agenda for the new Government and its Ministers.”

“Severe decreases in housing affordability; increases in the numbers of children and young people being neglected or abused; the abysmal inequality for Indigenous Australians; the 100,000 Australians that are homeless on any night (most of whom are parents with children); and the 23,800 Australians with a severe disability who continue to wait for services and respite are testimony to the fact that this wealth is not shared amongst us all” said Ms Chambers. “We welcome the Government’s emphasis on Social Inclusion as a way of tackling these and other issues of inequity highlighted in the report”

“In his speech Dr Henry made a welcome point that prosperity and well being needed to be defined in much broader terms than simply access to money. We are excited about the breadth of the Treasury’s engagement with this issue coupled with the Prime Minister’s stated wider role in policy for Treasury and look forward to working with Dr Henry in this expanded role” said Dr Ray Cleary.

Anglicare Australia calls on the new Rudd government to honour its commitments to these people and work with the community sector to address these issues of equity for all Australians.

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.