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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Australian families need the arguments to stop**

The commonwealth/state arguments about revenue are doing nothing to help Australian families facing unprecedented levels of stress.

Anglicare Australia's sixth 'State of the Family Report', released today, shows all too clearly that many Australian families are in need of extra support and assistance - the very services governed by the commonwealth/state agreements currently under dispute.

The Report looks at what has happened to families over the last thirty years, and what the real world is like for families today - especially those who are struggling.

“Our governments need a strategic, not combative approach to the provision of essential community services - one that recognises the reality faced by families at a time of significant social and economic change, and responds with compassion,” said the Chair of Anglicare Australia, Bishop Philip Huggins.

"Amidst all the changes happening, the crucial principle is that each individual feels their uniqueness is honoured, their circumstances are really understood, and that they are responded to with compassion. The examples from Anglicare agencies demonstrate these principles in action", Bishop Philip said.

Each year since 2000 Anglicare Australia has provided insight into the changing nature of families in Australian society, and the implications of that change for those families whose daily life is a constant struggle. Drawing on the expertise of the agencies caring for families, the reports refer to people whom the agencies of Anglicare Australia help every day.

‘State of the Family 2005’ gives real life examples of how agencies of Anglicare Australia provide sensitive and imaginative care tailored to the widely-differing circumstances of the families that turn to them for assistance. And this is done in a non-judgmental way.

The book offers a useful barometer for gauging the changing state of Australia’s families, especially those most disadvantaged by the social, economic and cultural shifts that influence the way we all participate in society. It provides both a reality check and a way forward for governments as they seek to fulfil their obligations to all Australians – through economic and social policy and support services that take account of the changing world in which individuals and families live.

Anglicare Australia’s ‘State of the Family 2005’ is available on [www.anglicare.asn.au](http://www.anglicare.asn.au), or by emailing [anglicare@anglicare.asn.au](mailto:anglicare@anglicare.asn.au).