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MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget ‘aimed at the future’ fails a fundamental test

Tonight’s Federal budget did not pass the test of fairness for all Australians, especially for the long-term, said Anglicare Australia’s executive director Sue Leppert.

“Tax relief for low and middle income families will at least have a short-term impact on the financial security of middle Australia. For those who have jobs, can afford the deposit on a house and own a car, the gains will play a part in lifting the burden of high child care costs, tough mortgage repayments and high petrol prices.”

“But the budget measures announced tonight bring little long-term hope to the most disadvantaged Australians – long-term unemployed, sole parents, people with disabilities - who want to work but face systemic barriers and disincentives,” Ms Leppert said.

The Chair of Anglicare Australia, Dr Ray Cleary, said that the Federal Budget has failed to grasp the big picture. “Anglicare Australia believes that a healthy economy is one that advances the wellbeing of *all* Australians,” Dr Cleary said. “A framework that offers limited opportunities for the 10 per cent of Australians who live in poverty is hardly moving us to a glowing future.”

“This year’s budget offered a chance for structural, strategic reform and increased spending on essential services that would result in equality of opportunity for all Australians. Many Australians still won’t be able to afford or get access to services such as child care, dental care, health care, education and housing,” Dr Cleary said.

“The Government has once again missed the opportunity to channel a healthy surplus into essential services and give the most disadvantaged Australians a chance to share in the nation’s thriving economy and narrow the gap between those who will continue to benefit from the nation’s economic growth – and the least well off, who won’t,” Dr Cleary said.