



20 Aug 2010 media statement

## Major church groups call for 10 year plan to overcome poverty

Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia have joined forces to call on the new government to develop a 10 year national plan to overcome poverty and disadvantage.

This call comes at the end of an election campaign that they describe as, at best, ignoring and, at worst, further entrenching the disadvantage of many.

Frank Quinlan said “if you are poor, if you are unemployed, if you are a refugee seeking asylum in Australia, or if you are homeless – you would no longer look forward to an election campaign to assist you. Poverty has been ignored by both major parties. We need a long term plan to ensure that addressing poverty is not one of the casualties of election politics.”

Kasy Chambers, said “the government that comes to power after the election on Saturday will still face the challenge of ensuring Indigenous culture becomes an integral part of all our culture, that all Australians – whatever their income or background – have a secure home they can afford, and that as they grow up and as they age everybody can participate meaningfully in our society”.

Major Brad Halse said “these are enormous challenges that an election campaign can’t deal with. They clearly require government to take a long-term view, beyond the next three years.”

Susan Helyar said “our social services know what works and what doesn’t and we are ready and able to work with the Australian Government to ensure investment in disadvantaged and vulnerable families and communities achieves real change.”

Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia indicated that they would be ready to meet with whoever forms the next government as a matter of urgency and to work constructively to develop a ten year national plan to overcome poverty, hopelessness and social exclusion.

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