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MEDIA RELEASE

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Snapshot of Australian Families: Life on a low income

Anglicare Australia releases the **2006 State of the Family Report** today, Monday 25 September 2006, at 2pm (EST) as part of the Anglicare National Conference being held in Canberra.

The report focuses on three main issues:

- Why so many people access emergency relief, despite increasing prosperity for most Australians.
- What life is really like for families on a low income.
- The implications of recent welfare and industrial relations changes on low-income families.

The Report will be launched by Dr Ray Cleary, the Chair of Anglicare Australia. Dr Cleary said “The impact that financial hardship has on families and children is increasing, despite the Australian economy continuing to blossom. At the same time, demands on emergency relief agencies are rising, with thousands of Australians needing these services each day.

“Many low income families now rely on Emergency Relief just to get by each week. The challenge for organisations such as Anglicare is to help people with their immediate needs and also assist in finding long term solutions for their difficulties.”

The report also looks at the implications of welfare and industrial relations changes that came into effect on 1 July 2006. Both these reforms are believed to have far-reaching implications on families living on a low income.

The report suggests a way forward for developing a more inclusive society that strives for a balance between economic prosperity and wellbeing.

Dr Cleary said “There is a way to improve the lives of those who are doing it tough. The solution relies on improving the current mix of government policy, community engagement and support for individuals.”

