



Media Release

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New Report shows Social Inclusion Antidote to Turbulent Times

10th October 2008

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Embargoed until 6am 13th October 2008

Anglicare Australia today released its 7th annual State of the Family Report, Creative Tension. The title of the report refers to the natural tension between economic and social policy especially in difficult economic times.

Anglicare Australia has a strong commitment to providing a prophetic voice for the people using its services. The Chair of Anglicare Australia Dr Canon Ray Cleary said today "Anglicare Australia has been producing this report since 2000 and it has become a much awaited and used resource. It is not enough for our member agencies to provide services without documenting the issues that can change lives. Anglicare provides support and care services all over the country and this report is based on those experiences. Supporting families and building communities is central to our mission and reflects the call of the Gospel. As a Faith based network we are committed to ensure no one is excluded from participation in Australia's wellbeing.

"Anglicare Australia applauds the government's commitment to the social inclusion agenda." Executive Director Kasy Chambers said today. "We need to keep those ideas in the front of our mind as the economy changes; social inclusion is not a luxury that we chase when we have full employment and a strong economy. In anti-poverty week it is even more important that we look at how we include all people."

The report is based on the experience of the 45 Anglicare agencies and their 425,000 clients. One disturbing trend noticed by member agencies across the country is the growing tendency for people from working families to use emergency relief and housing services. "Emergency relief can be seen to be the canary in the mine – the early warning of things not right" said Ms Chambers. "People are applying to our services to help ends meet, with one more power bill, school uniform or fuel bill pushing them over the edge. Many Australians, including our clients, are living on credit and when prices increase this can be the straw breaking the camel's back".

In launching the report Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens said today "I am delighted to be associated with this report from Anglicare Australia. Social Inclusion is the organising principle for this government and this report provides an important resource to further our understanding of the concept and the effect it can have on people's lives."

Partial sponsor of the report Community Sector Bank Director Peter Quarmby said "Anti poverty week is an important time to remember those that aren't doing so well in

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.

Australia and this report offers some real ideas on how Anglicare services across the country are improving lives.”

Notes for media

The report is available in hard copy at the launch or on the website after the launch. Early copies can be arranged if the embargo is adhered to.

Anglicare agencies work with over 425,000 clients in hundreds of locations across the country in all areas of need including housing and homelessness, disability, employment services, early childhood services, fostering and out of home care, family relationship services, aged care, mental health, Indigenous services, and substance abuse.

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