



GPO Box 1307 Canberra ACT 2601

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Dr Ray Cleary (Chair)
0419 371 613
Kasy Chambers (Executive Director)
0401 494 380

9th January 2008

Anglicare Australia welcomes the removal of “anti-gag” clauses

Anglicare Australia welcomed the removal by the Federal government of the “anti-gag” clauses that were put in place by the Howard Government.

“These clauses were perhaps the most Draconian and insidious measures in contracts between Government and community organisations. They gave rise to fear, both real and perceived, that organisations which spoke out and represented the people seeking their help would lose their funding” Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers said today.

“Community organisations are an essential part of civil society and it is important that they are able to talk with Government and the media about the experiences of people who are living in disadvantage. Giving out the tin of soup without being able to talk about the reasons for the need to give out that soup does not enable governments to make the best social policy.”

“It takes courage to ask for help and when someone comes to an Anglicare agency we owe it to them to take their story to the policy makers and governments and advocate for change. The removal of these clauses is akin to enabling organisations to advocate against slavery as well as feeding the slaves on the slave ships” Ms Chambers said.

“We are hopeful that this is an early sign of a more equal and productive relationship, maybe even partnership, between government and the community sector” Ms Chambers said.

ENDS

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.