



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body welcomes launch of New Resource to Support the Tasmanian response to Homelessness

At 1.30pm on Tuesday December 7th, at the Anglicare offices in Launceston, the Minister for Human Services Cassy O'Connor will be launching the November edition of *Parity*, titled "Responding to Homelessness in Tasmania".

Parity is Australia's key national magazine addressing homelessness, and has dedicated their November edition to how Tasmania is addressing the issue. The publication is a the result of a joint project between Housing Tasmania, Shelter Tasmania and key stakeholders, Anglicare Tasmania, the Salvation Army Tasmania, Colony 47, Hobart City Council and *Parity*.

The publication documents the key Government policy and program initiatives designed to prevent homelessness and assist people out of homelessness. At the same time many key program and service initiatives are outlined showing how these programs and service actually work to assist and support those most in need. There is a strong research and advocacy focus to the publication where policies and programs are examined and analysed and where advocacy bodies argue for what they believe still need to be done to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Shelter Tasmania CEO Pattie Chugg said of the project:

"Responding to Homelessness in Tasmania is a great example of what can be achieved when Government, advocacy bodies, services and clients and service consumer's work together to achieve positive and tangible results.

"The Tasmanian Government and the Community Sector should be commended for supporting an important project like this. This publication has given anyone who wants to the opportunity to have their say about the response to homelessness in Tasmania. They have set a solid foundation from which we can all move forward.

"Their *Coming in from the cold* Homelessness Plan is a major step in the right direction to making sure the response to homelessness is a whole of government and a whole of community response. At the same time, Shelter Tasmania will continue to call for more attention and resources to be given to providing safe, secure and affordable housing, especially social housing for those trying to exit homelessness and avoid homelessness in the first place."

The "Responding to Homelessness in Tasmania" publication now provides everyone with an interest and a stake in the response to homelessness with the base line information they need to measure the State's progress and success in working to end homelessness in Tasmania.

Shelter Tasmania Is the Peak Body for Not for Profit Housing and Homeless Services across Tasmania for more information see www.shelertas.org.au . We would like to thank the Council for Homeless Persons, in particular Noel Murray for producing *Parity* and all of those who have contributed to this edition.

For further information and copies of " Responding to Homlessness" contact Pattie Chugg

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