



MEDIA RELEASE

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Private Rental Support Welcomed but Concerns for Tenants, Housing and Homelessness Services

Shelter Tasmania recognises that creating the Tasmanian State Budget for 2011/12 in the current financial climate would have been a difficult task. "There is no doubt that the 2.25% indexation for services will hit an already under resourced community sector very hard." said Shelter's Executive Officer Pattie Chugg.

"One of the few, but positive announcements was the ongoing funding for the private rental sector through Private Rental Tenancy Support Services and Private Rental Support Services. Shelter Tasmania also welcomes the commitment to the State Homelessness Plan and the initiatives relating to energy efficiency, given the increasing costs of living on average Tasmanians" said Ms Chugg

"Changes to Housing Tasmania's rent setting policy will see rents across the board charged at 25% of tenants' income; with some concessions for those on the lowest incomes such as Youth Allowance & Newstart. This will undoubtedly cause further hardship for those who can least afford it, which will in turn put further pressure on social services."

Ms Chugg commended Minister Cassie O'Connor for providing a briefing to the community sector and being available to take questions immediately following the budget release and said Shelter Tasmania look forward to working with the Minister as the ramifications from this budget become evident.

Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Not for Profit Housing and Homeless Services across Tasmania for more information see www.shelertas.org.au

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