

HOMELESS SINGLE MOTHERS

30 May 2006

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services, representing the Minister for Families and Communities, a question about the funding of services for homeless single mothers.

After nine years the Salvation Army of Ingle Farm has lost its funding for support programs to specifically assist young, homeless mothers. The program was established due to the lack of such a service in the north and north-eastern suburbs. The organisation ran a monthly support group for young women and worked to try to get them into emergency and long-term accommodation. It offered employment and basic life skills training, addressing the health needs of the women and their babies.

The state manager for Mission Australia, an organisation which did receive funding, was reported in the *Leader Messenger* as stating that Mission Australia would try to meet the needs of all young people from the north who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. However, would be is no specific focus on young women from the north-eastern suburbs.

There is, therefore, concern that the decision to split the funding among other organisations will lead to a fragmented and weaker service for the women in need. My questions are: what has the minister done to ensure that young, single, homeless mothers who utilise, or would have utilised, the services once provided by the Salvation Army at Ingle Farm will be given holistic and ongoing support; and will the minister consider allocating ongoing funding to the Salvation Army at Ingle Farm, to provide holistic support and services for young, single, homeless mothers in the north and north-eastern suburbs?

HOMELESS SINGLE MOTHERS**Thursday 16 November 2006**

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (30 May).

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO: The Minister for Housing has provided the following information:

As of 1 July 2006, the Commonwealth Government redirected funding of the Jobs Placement and Employment (JPET) Program from the Salvation Army at Ingle Farm (SAIF) to the Service to Youth Council (SYC).

The South Australian Department for Families and Communities (DFC), in liaising with both SYC and SAIF, has reported that the two agencies will be developing, on a case by case basis, transition plans to ensure clients affected by the funding change will receive uninterrupted services at similar levels. Both agencies have well established services for homeless youth in the Northern metropolitan region, and have a demonstrated commitment to continue to provide services to this target group.

Funding is provided via the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) to provide services to homeless people. In 2005-06, SAIF received funding of \$774,800 to provide a range of services for homeless youth and \$210,600 for services for homeless families. Both these programs provide emergency housing and other support services for homeless young women with children. In addition, funds are provided seven other non-government housing providers in the Northern metropolitan region to provide emergency housing and support services, via SAAP, to homeless youth, families and those women and children affected by domestic violence. Funding to these services in 2005-06 totalled \$3,599,750.