



**MEDIA RELEASE – Tuesday 2 February 2010**

**Bethany receives \$350,000 funding boost to help homeless children.**

Bethany has recently been awarded new funding of \$350,000 per year from the state government to provide a new service to homeless children in the Barwon South West Region.

The program is one of only four new programs recently funded as part of the development of the state government's new 2020 Homelessness Strategy. The *Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service* will provide a broader range of support for children in homeless families focussing on dependent children aged up to 12 but with capacity to support children up to the age of 18.

Grant Boyd CEO of Bethany said "The impact of homelessness can cause serious and long lasting issues for children including developmental delay, interrupted education and physical and mental health problems. This new service will enable us to provide a flexible and immediate response to improve the support for children accessing the homelessness service system, thereby decreasing the impact of trauma on the child's immediate and long term emotional and physical wellbeing."

The program will provide assessment, case planning, enhanced case management and therapeutic group work and work to improve access to specialist and mainstream support resources for children and families experiencing homelessness" Mr. Boyd said.

The service will also help reduce the stress on parents by assisting them to resolve the support issues of their children thereby enhancing their capacity to address their individual and family needs.

Funding for this new service is until June 2012 and is through the Office of Housing – Department of Human Services Victoria.

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