



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ANTI-POVERTY WEEK SHINES A LIGHT ON INEQUALITY IN NATION'S CAPITAL

**16 October 2016:** This week, ACT community organisations will host a suite of events for Anti-Poverty Week, highlighting the economic and social inequality that exists in Canberra.

Despite the reputation of the ACT as being an affluent community, inequality is prevalent across the Territory, and it is this inequality that ACT Anti-Poverty Week events will seek to bring to the attention of the broader Canberra population and decision makers.

“Anti-Poverty Week is a national event that seeks to expand on the UN’s annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. It serves as an opportunity to not just highlight the poverty and disadvantage that exists in our city, but to also propose meaningful solutions to address these issues,” Co-Chair of the ACT Anti-Poverty Week Committee, Jeremy Halcrow said.

“We are proud to see a calendar of 30 events across Canberra and surrounding regions during Anti-Poverty Week this year, showing the commitment from our not-for-profit sector and the community to addressing and ending poverty,” Co-Chair of the ACT Anti-Poverty Week Committee, Frances Crimmins said.

Included in the calendar of events is the launch of Anglicare’s ‘Come as you are’, a research report which looks into the links between disadvantage and social exclusion, and in particular the role of community food services in supporting those experiencing disadvantage and social exclusion in the ACT and Queanbeyan, as well as an awards ceremony announcing the winners of the annual ‘Pens against Poverty’ schools writing competition. In addition, there will be community lunches and morning teas, church services, and more.

“Our goal is to see as many members of the community attending an event or joining the conversation as possible over the week,” Ms Crimmins said.

“With the election having taken place this weekend, it’s a crucial time for us to make sure that addressing inequality remains on the agenda for the incoming Government.”

Anti-Poverty Week will take place from 16 – 22 October 2016. A full calendar of events, including relevant media contacts, is attached to this media release.

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**Frances Crimmins (YWCA Canberra) and Jeremy Halcrow (Anglicare, NSW South, NSW West and ACT) are available for interview.**

**Media contact: Joanna Le 0450 962 842. To find out more, visit**

**<http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>.**



**About YWCA Canberra:** YWCA Canberra is a feminist, secular, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children's services, community development, housing, youth services, women's leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership. For more information visit: [www.ywca-canberra.org.au](http://www.ywca-canberra.org.au)

**About Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT:** Anglicare is a not-for-profit organisation focused on helping vulnerable families, children, youth and communities throughout regional NSW and the ACT, tackling disadvantage and social injustice in partnership with the Anglican Church. Our strategy is to deliver this through a Survive and Thrive model which addresses immediate critical needs through services like emergency relief and crisis housing, as well as long term needs, through services like youth mentoring, parent education, and support for young carers, in order to break the cycle of poverty and move people towards positive life outcomes. Anglicare employs more than 700 staff, is supported by a team of more than 600 volunteers, and has a presence in more than 40 towns across regional NSW and 13 locations in the ACT. For more information visit [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au)

