



MEDIA RELEASE

POLITICIANS AND COMMUNITY HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS POVERTY AND HARDSHIP IN THE ACT

6 OCTOBER 2016: This Friday 7 October, political leaders of all three major parties will attend a 'town hall' style event to hear directly from community members on their concerns about poverty and hardship in the ACT.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA, Leader of the Opposition, Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA and Leader of the ACT Greens, Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA, will also speak at this special event to officially open Anti-Poverty Week in the ACT.

Leaders will also respond to key questions from Canberrans with lived experience of hardship.

Co-Chair of the ACT Anti-Poverty Week Committee and Chief Executive of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT, Jeremy Halcrow said, "Anti-Poverty Week is an annual nationwide event, providing an opportunity for members of the community to highlight issues of poverty and hardship, and to seek solutions for overcoming these issues.

"Given this is a Territory election year, we wanted to use this opportunity to connect vulnerable members of our community with our political leaders, to ensure their voice is heard."

Co-Chair of the ACT Anti-Poverty Week Committee and Executive Director of YWCA Canberra, Frances Crimmins added, "In the election campaign so far, issues around social inclusion and poverty have been largely overlooked by the major parties.

"This event will address that gap in priorities, and give our community a chance to share their lived experiences and concerns about how those issues are being addressed through meaningful policy development."

Approximately 100 guests are expected to attend the opening event, held on Friday 7 October from 11.30am, at Ainslie Arts Centre in Braddon.

- ENDS-

Media are invited to attend this event. Please RSVP to Joanna Le, YWCA Canberra, on 0450 962 842.

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.



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

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

