



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body welcomes launch of the Tasmanian edition of *Parity*

Shelter Tasmania congratulates all those who have contributed to the edition of *Parity* "demonstrating their strong commitment to tackling homelessness in Tasmania" says Executive Officer of Shelter Tas, Pattie Chugg.

Parity, Australia's top national magazine addressing homelessness has dedicated their November edition to presenting Tasmania's perspective on the issue and in particular, how housing and homeless services are responding to address homelessness. However, Pattie Chugg states "It is not just the responsibility of Specialist Homelessness Services, but all mainstream services need to play their part".

We know that homelessness in Tasmania is a huge issue with approximately 380 people currently sleeping rough around the state.

Research indicates housing stress is a strong contributory to being homeless and currently more than 18,000 are experiencing this with most at risk of financial hardship and poverty. In comparison with other cities around Australia, Hobart 'tops the chart' of highest rate of renters in housing stress at 33 per cent.

Combined with a lack of affordable and secure housing and the forecast appears bleak for Tasmanians.

Minister Cassy O'Connor will launch *Parity's* "Responding to Homelessness in Tasmania – Putting the Pieces Together" on the **7th December 2012, 1.30pm** at the Anglicare meeting room, Elizabeth Street in Launceston.

Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Not for Profit Housing and Homeless Services across Tasmania for more information see www.shelbertas.org.au . We would like to thank the Council for Homeless Persons, in particular Noel Murray for producing *Parity* and all of those who have contributed to this edition.

For further information contact Pattie Chugg

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