



TAYLOR WORKS WITH STATE MINISTER ON BURGESS CENTRE FUNDING

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Angus Taylor, the coalition candidate for Hume, today said that the looming funding crisis for the Rae Burgess Centre in Yass put in stark relief the problems of housing affordability, disadvantage and homelessness and in our region. Mr Taylor said:

“It is clear that there are serious problems with homelessness and housing affordability in Yass, Canberra and other parts of the region and state. We know that high quality outreach services like the Rae Burgess Centre in Yass help enormously on this front. They help to plug the many gaps in government services.

“The work recently completed by Anglicare on housing affordability in this area is therefore timely, and highlights the issue in a striking way. It certainly helps us to try to address the problem by focusing first on the facts. That work demonstrates that we simply don't have enough affordable housing for disadvantaged families and people in this region. A crisis in affordable housing inevitably leads to homelessness. I commend Anglicare for exposing the facts and trying to address the causes of homelessness - not just the symptoms.

“I have been in close contact with the State Minister for Community Services, Pru Goward, to apply pressure and work through the options for the Rae Burgess Centre.

“Currently the State Government is conducting a review of specialist homelessness services. This is an opportunity to attract funding for high quality services like Rae Burgess.

“I have committed to work closely with Minister Goward to try to keep the Rae Burgess Centre alive.

“This has not been a core funding obligation for the federal Government. Where the federal Government has provided funding for homelessness and disadvantage, that

money is then directed to organisations and communities by the States. Given the parlous state of this federal Government's finances, there is little prospect of that changing in time to provide short term funding before the State Review is complete.

Mr Taylor also emphasised that the plight of the Rae Burgess Centre threw in to light the sometimes difficult relationship between organisations providing services in NSW and the ACT.

“Homelessness knows no boundaries. However, the demand for services provided by the Rae Burgess Centre exposes some the serious cross border issues that constantly arise between our region and the ACT. Yass, having predominantly cheaper housing, attracts people who require cheaper housing. It then falls to the Yass community to address social and homelessness problems that sometimes follow. The Rae Burgess Centre currently provides services to ACT residents, but I am told similar services in the ACT do not reciprocate. It is clear that we will need to work closely with the ACT on this problem as part of the State government review.

Mr Taylor said:

“I am committed to working with the State Minister on this issue. She knows my views on it and I will work hard to get her Government's support.”

Please contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 for further information.