

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Anglicare housing service prepares to help more local families as COVID-19 creates financial stress

Anglicare's Homelessness and Housing service in Goulburn is bracing for an influx of clients impacted by the COVID-19 measures that have seen some jobs on hold or disappear.

Anglicare senior manager, Toni Reay, says that employment instability or job loss is one of the main reasons family face housing stress, and business closures as a result of COVID-19 mean more people are vulnerable.

"We assist over 600 people a year who are either homeless or struggling to keep a roof over their heads," says Mrs Reay. "While we are optimistic that government support will assist families whose jobs are at risk, we have already seen more people visiting our emergency food relief service."

Mrs Reay encourages people to seek assistance early before their situation deteriorates. "We typically see a spike in our services when the colder winter months approach – this year we expect that to impact families now more than ever. For families who haven't needed assistance before, it can be daunting to ask for help but early intervention can make a real difference."

With government measures urging people to stay at home, she also encourages people who are more at risk of domestic violence to seek help. "Over 40 per cent of the people coming through our housing service are escaping a violent home. Our team can provide the practical and emotional support that people need."

Anglicare also wish to thank local businesses that have assisted with food and toiletry items during this time, and encourage anyone who would like to support their work to make a donation to Anglicare's Easter Appeal by visiting [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au)

All donations will support Anglicare's emergency relief services in Goulburn.

**For more information or to arrange an interview, call 0437 321 451.**

