



Community Housing Council of SA Inc (CHCSA)

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Tuesday 14th February 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Housing Council of South Australia Inc

LIBERALS DIP INTO WRONG POCKET FOR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Community Housing Council of South Australia (CHCSA) has called on the Liberal leader Rob Kerin to withdraw his plan to fund new facilities at Glenside Psychiatric Hospital with \$22m of Community Housing money.

CHCSA Executive Officer Mr Ciarán Synnott said the proposed plan if implemented would 'gut' the Community Housing Program and take away much needed housing for other groups including intellectually and physically disabled people as well as aged, youth and low income households among others.

"I am sure that is not their intention and can only imagine that they have been badly advised on this matter" he said.

Mr Synnott said that *"Community Housing is unique in that it draws on the goodwill and effort of its tenants in managing their own housing as well as involving numerous family and community members who give their own free time to assist those who cannot look after themselves. Community Housing provides a sense of belonging and wellbeing as well as providing shelter."*

"I am surprised that the Liberals have proposed this plan given their historic support for Community Housing which is all about communities helping themselves with some government support" he said

"This is not about criticising their proposal to develop new support services for people with mental health problems which is a welcome initiative, but funding of this magnitude should primarily come from the mental health budget. Only last week the Prime Minister and the state and territory leaders announced a \$1 billion plan to improve mental health services across the country. Why are they not proposing to use this money to fund their initiative?" said Mr Synnott.

Mr Synnott said *"what is even more disappointing is that only recently the Shadow Minister for Housing, Ms Isobel Redmond, promised to protect money for housing from being used for health purposes as happened under the previous Liberal Government."*

Mr Synnott called on both major parties to commit to a significant expansion of Community Housing in the forthcoming election.

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