

The Social Justice Bulletin informs Society members and staff about social justice activities in NSW and the latest news in our priority advocacy areas – housing & homelessness, people seeking asylum & refugees, energy affordability & cost of living pressures.

Social Justice in Action

Right to Home campaign launch at the 2016 Rosalie Rendu



The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW's Right to Home Campaign was launched at the Rosalie Rendu on 20 October 2016 in Sydney.

The Hon Susan Ryan AO, former Age Discrimination Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, delivered a keynote address on the changing face of poverty, with a focus on homelessness among older women.

A panel of experts, including Susan Ryan, Katherine McKernan (Homelessness NSW), Michelle Anderson (Caseworker at SVDP's Our Lady of the Way), Gaynor Mason (SVDP Wollongong Central Council President) discussed solutions to address this growing issue, before the Right to Home Campaign was formally launched.

You can take action for the Right to Home!

Our [campaign toolkit](#) explains what you can do to advocate for more affordable housing. A simple but effective action is to sign and circulate our petition, which calls for changes to NSW planning laws so that all new residential developments include at least 15% affordable housing. If we can get 10,000 signatures and deliver all the signatures to Parliament House then the issue will be debated in Parliament.

To add your voice to the petition:

1. Please [download](#) and print the petition
2. Add your name, address & postcode, and signature
3. Ask your colleagues, clubs, teams, friends and family to sign the petition as well
4. Once completed, post the petition (must be originals, not copies) to:

P.O Box 5 PETERSHAM NSW 2049

Local Right to Home campaign events

The Parramatta Central Council is organising a local event to promote the Right to Home campaign on **2 December 2016** at the Caroline Chisholm Centre in Mt Druitt. For more information please contact Anna.Ashenden@vinnies.org.au

Housing & Homelessness

The topic of this year's Rosalie Rendu – Homelessness among older women – and our Right to Home Campaign received good media coverage. **You can listen to Susan Ryan's interview with Fran Kelly on [Radio National's website](#).** Jack de Groot, CEO of SVDP NSW, also wrote an article titled *Lack Of Affordable Housing Should Hit Close To Home* for the [Huffington Post](#).

People Seeking Asylum & Refugees

Australia's treatment of asylum seekers has been heavily criticised at a session of the UN's leading human rights body in Geneva. More than 100 countries spoke during the three-hour session, with many calling on Australia to abide by international law. Read more on the [ABC website](#).

Meanwhile, doctors have finally been released to speak out about conditions and medical treatment in Australia's immigration detention system. The backdown came ahead of the commencement of [high court challenge from medical advocacy group Doctors for Refugee](#). Read more on the [Guardian website](#).

Energy Affordability & Cost of Living Pressures



Energy & Water
Ombudsman NSW

The Energy and Water Ombudsman's 2015/2016 annual report shows that NSW families are struggling with growing gas bills and poor customer service, with the number of gas customers on hardship payment programs jumping by more than 50 per cent in the past year. You can download the report on [EWON's website](#) and read EWON's article in the [SMH](#).

From Canberra

ACOSS released a [new report](#) revealing that poverty is growing in Australia with an estimated 2.9 million people or 13.3% of all people living below the internationally accepted poverty line. The report provides the most up to date picture of poverty in the nation drawing on new data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Income and Expenditure surveys for 2013-14 and previous years. It found that 731,300 or 17.4% of all children were living in poverty in Australia.

Social Services Minister Christian Porter is after welfare payment recipients. Watch Dr John Falzon, CEO SVDP set the record straight [on Lateline](#). "There's been \$3 billion of cuts to essential social payments and services, community health programs, social support services, community legal aid services. We want to see those cuts restored before we start talking about new funding. We want to see justice restored."



More Stories

If you would like to contribute to the SJ Bulletin please contact felix.delhomme@vinnies.org.au