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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **In difficult times, when things are getting worse, this is just not right.**

Recent research conducted by Fujitsu Consulting forecast that 68,000 tenants in NSW will face eviction by December 2009 if unemployment reaches 7.8% as predicted.

With 22.4% of our youth population already without full time employment and the number of unemployment on the Central Coast remaining above the national figure, we can only expect that as usual, things will be tougher here on the Central Coast.

While Service Providers wait patiently for the details of the implementation of the White Paper on Homelessness, already the State Government has begun to play games with funding formulae for homeless programs.

“It is a bit like now you see it, now you don’t” said Laurie Maher, President of the Central Coast Supported Accommodation Network.

Based on the costing formula developed by the Department of Community Services, most refuges and programs for the homeless on the Central Coast were found to be underfunded.

Rather than the State Government increasing funding to meet their own funding, all Service Providers have been directed to reduce the amount of service they provide.

While it is expected that we will continue to help as many people as previously, Laurie Maher explained we have to sign an agreement with the Department, which states that we will offer a reduced service.

In difficult times, when things are getting worse, this is just not right.

With the billions of dollars being made available by the Federal Government to assist those doing it tough, to then find that the NSW Government is playing mean spirited games is a disgrace.

“Already refuges for the homeless on the Central Coast have to turn away more than 50% of those who come to them for help” Maher stated.

It’s a time for the State to increase its funding for emergency services to those who are most disadvantaged.

“With the Federal Government providing all this extra money, surely the State can play its part and work in with them to offer more support, not less” Maher concluded.

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