



# Media Release

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## New money welcomed

5 February, 2009

The Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) welcomed the new money for Tasmania from the Federal Government's financial stimulus package announced in more detail today.

TasCOSS CEO, Tom Muller said, "In particular we welcome the \$140 million to build new public housing stock. This should contribute to meeting the desperate need for secure and affordable housing in the State."

"It is now up to the State Government to work quickly to get 500 new properties on the ground as soon as possible. It is vital that the new homes are added to existing public housing stock to increase the overall numbers of publicly owned housing properties in Tasmania and to contribute to the continued viability of Housing Tasmania," Mr Muller said.

"In spending this new money, we need to see a commitment from the State Government to work closely with the community services sector toward long-term solutions to homelessness and housing stress," Tom Muller said.

"This is a great opportunity for the Tasmanian Government to also spend what is left of the \$60 million it committed to public housing last year. Such a major injection of funds into public housing is long overdue in Tasmania and the Government must make the most of it," Tom Muller said.

"We also welcome the \$370 million ear-marked for Tasmanian education infrastructure. This too is sorely needed and we urge the State Government to ensure that Tasmanian schools most in need – in particular, those in lower socio-economic areas – receive priority assistance with this money," Mr Muller said.

**Tom Muller is available for interview and additional comment**

**Please call 6231 0755 or 0448 310 043**