

## ACTION NEEDED TO MEET LOCAL HUNGER PROBLEM



**Wed 8 May 2013**

With demand for emergency food relief from Canberrans up by over 7 percent in the past year, a new report from Anglicare paints a clearer picture of the extent of hunger in NSW and ACT.

Anglicare interviewed 171 emergency relief clients: 141 in NSW and 30 in Canberra. The research found that 82% of households were severely food insecure. And despite the attempts of parents to buffer their children by going hungry themselves, the report shows that children suffered from hunger in one third of households because there was no more food.

Yesterday, the report *Hard Choices: going without in a time of plenty* was released at the launch of Anglicare's Winter Pantry Appeal by Chief Executive Bishop Stephen Pickard at St John Care in Reid.

"There has been disproportionate increase in the number of families with children asking for help with food in the past two years," said Bishop Pickard. "Due to the demand, we only have a few weeks supply of unperishable food remaining. The report confirms that children are going hungry. This is why we looking to the community to donate food, especially for children's school lunches."

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

The ACT part of the survey was conducted at St John's Care, the main emergency relief centre Anglicare supports in Canberra, where demand has been rising significantly for the past three years and is up 7.2 percent in the past year. Over 6500 Canberrans – nearly half of them children - were provided emergency food at St John's Care in 2012.

To help meet the growing demand at St John's Care and elsewhere, Anglicare will host week-long food collections at a number of shopping centres. You can donate non-perishable food items to the Anglicare collection desk at the following dates and locations:

- **May 13-19 – The Village, Gungahlin**
- **May 20-26 – Belconnen Westfields**
- **May 27-June 2 – Woden Westfields**

This year AIDF is sponsoring special food collection bags to assist church, school and other community groups to run their own collection. Anglicare staff will pick up the donations by arrangement. To arrange please phone Sarah Hubert at Anglicare's head office.