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RIGHT TO FOOD  
COALITION

Media release

21 April 2016

## Affordable housing and adequate incomes are long-term solutions to food insecurity, not simply food, says CHP

This morning Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) will launch the *Beyond Emergency Food: Responding to Food Insecurity and Homelessness* edition of its national homelessness magazine *Parity* at The Hub, Docklands.

The edition highlights the drivers of food insecurity – poverty and social exclusion – and its long-term solution, which CHP CEO Jenny Smith says, “Is not necessarily ‘food’ but rather secure housing, stable income, good health and a solid labor market.”

“Among food insecure households food is often seen as a ‘luxury’ purchase, and many – particularly parents – will forego meals in order to pay for rent, medical expenses, or transport to and from education or employment.

“The harmful health consequences of food insecurity are many and not limited to mental health problems, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Among children, they can lead to higher risk of birth defects, iron deficiency and anaemia, and behavioural and developmental problems.

“Nationwide there are more than 3,000 emergency food relief programs and frontline pantries working tirelessly to bridge the gap for food insecure families, highlighting not only the community’s desire to tackle the issue, but also the huge demand for such services,” Ms Smith added.

VincentCare CEO and acting CEO St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria John Blewonski will highlight key initiatives to aid food insecurity at this morning’s launch, alongside cohealth Executive Director Sally Mitchell and food security practitioner and policy expert Dr. Beverley Wood.

CHP wishes to acknowledge the support of Rebecca Lindberg and the edition’s sponsors, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, cohealth, Australian Red Cross, St Mary’s House of Welcome, Sacred Heart Mission, the Sydney Food Fairness Alliance and the Right to Food Coalition.

*Parity* is and has been Australia’s only national homelessness publication since 1988. To access the current and past edition/s of *Parity*, subscribe today ([chp.org.au/services/parity-magazine/subscribe-to-parity-2/](http://chp.org.au/services/parity-magazine/subscribe-to-parity-2/)).

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**Interview opportunities:**

- Jenny Smith, CEO Council to Homeless Persons
- Lisa, CHP volunteer and contributor to this edition of *Parity*
  - Formerly experienced homelessness and food insecurity, forwent food to pay rent, medical