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MEDIA RELEASE

HCC FOSTERS NEW INITIATIVE TO HELP THE HOMELESS OF HOBART

Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Rob Valentine says the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show 2,507 people are homeless in Tasmania, one of the highest in the nation.

“This figure taken from the 2006 Census shows a rate of 52.6 homeless people per 10,000 population, putting Tasmania ahead of New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT in percentage terms for each 10,000 of the population.”

“The information also shows that the number of homeless people in Tasmania grew between 2001 and 2006, particularly in the numbers of people either sleeping rough or accessing sheltered accommodation,” said Alderman Valentine.

“We are aware that half of all Tasmania's homeless are staying temporarily with friends or relatives. This may include sleeping in a spare bedroom, a fold-out lounge or on the floor. A further 25% of our State's homeless are accommodated in shelters each night.”

“If these figures are matched with the distribution of population in Tasmania, particularly given homeless people often gravitate to cities, there would be approximately 120 people sleeping rough in Greater Hobart and approximately 700 homeless overall.”

“As a response to this pressing issue, the Council is hosting Homeless Connect Hobart. This is a one day community event aimed at fostering social inclusion, where organisations provide free services (such as haircuts, clothes, shoes, accommodation information, medical services and legal advice) to the people experiencing homelessness, or those who are at risk of being homeless.”



“The Hobart City Council invites the community to be part of this important social inclusion event by making a donation. Businesses and members of the community are encouraged to donate money for \$10 and \$20 vouchers, which guests of the event will be able to redeem at the Argyle Street Vinnies Store.”

“Those wishing to donate can choose to have their name or their business name on the voucher, or remain anonymous. Donations for these vouchers can be made at the Hobart Council Centre (corner of Elizabeth & Davey Streets) or via cheque to Homeless Connect Donations, GPO Box 503, Hobart 7001 (cheques will need to be made payable to Hobart City Council),” the Lord Mayor said.

For further information contact:

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