



**MEDIA RELEASE
FROM THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF ADELAIDE
JEFFREY DRIVER**

The Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide has urged State and Federal leaders to ensure that there is not an extended ‘human hangover’ from the present economic crisis.

Archbishop Jeffrey Driver told a meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Adelaide on Saturday “it is vitally important that measures by State and Federal governments over several budget cycles should focus not just on infrastructure development and short term economic stimulus; they should have as a clear priority the goal of long term inclusion of the most marginalised”.

Archbishop Driver reminded the Synod that “regardless of who is in Government, the effects of the current global economic crisis will be around for some time and therefore, our responses to it will shape what sort of society we bequeath to the next generation”.

Drawing on the lessons from the 1990-1992 recession, the Archbishop pointed out that that following previous recessions in Australia many Australians had spent years on the edge of employment and opportunity, some never recovering a productive place. In 1990 the number of long term unemployed had been about 120,000; those numbers grew to 350,000 in 1995, three years after the recession ended. Likewise, following the recession of the 1990s the full-time male workforce never completely recovered, dropping from 62% to 54% of the male working-age population.

The Archbishop concluded that if Australia was to avoid a long term ‘social hangover’ from the present economic crisis there should be a sustained education and employment orientation to ensure the numbers of Australians who become employment and opportunity exiles was kept to a minimum.

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