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MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Renters Saved - The Federal Government Provides \$3.3 Million in Emergency Funding to Save the Queensland Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service

The Services Union applauds the Federal Government for saving the day for all Queensland renters!

In response to the Services Union's briefings on the issue, Federal Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness Brendan O'Connor today announced that the Federal Government is going to provide \$3.3 million in emergency funding to save Queensland's Tenant Advice and Advocacy Services (TAAS) program, which had its funding axed by the Newman State Government.

The Services Union has been strongly advocating for the TAAS program which provides services for and represents the interests of all residential tenants in Queensland, including elderly pensioners, people with disabilities and those in marginal tenures such as caravan parks and boarding houses.

The emergency funding will run from October 2012, when the TAAS funding was to cease, until June 2013, when the Federal Government will call on all states and territories to ensure Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Services funding is a condition of any future Commonwealth/State agreements.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said that if it was not for the intervention of the Federal Government, the one third of Queenslanders who rent would essentially be without a voice.

"We have the highest proportion of renters out of any state in Australia," Ms Nelson said.

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"It was an abhorrent decision by the Newman Government to essentially eradicate this funding from TAAS, which I might add comes from the interest earned on the rental bonds paid by renting Queenslanders."

"What this emergency funding means is that close to 90 Queenslanders who were to lose their jobs, many of whom had no access to redundancy payments even after years of service to our communities, will be able to continue working with Queensland renters, keeping tenancy fair."

"What this emergency funding means is that renting Queenslanders will have the support they need through 23 TAAS organisations and the Federal Government are to be applauded for coming to our rescue," Ms Nelson said.

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AND SERVICES UNION
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TRADING AS
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