

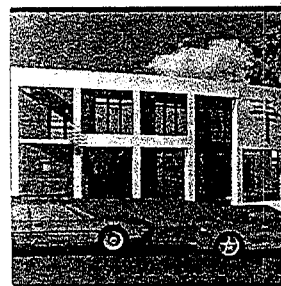
# THE Catholic Weekly

OFFICIAL CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER FOR WYD08 

Phone: (02) 9390 5400 Fax: (02) 9390 5401 Website: [www.catholicweekly.com.au](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au)

Vol 67, No 4428 August 10, 2008

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# Families forced to live in cars: rent crisis hits

By DAMIR GOVORCIN



## New head at University of Notre Dame

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Watched by Archbishop Barry James Hickey of Perth, University of Notre Dame Australia chancellor Dr Michael Quinlan, left, and outgoing vice chancellor Peter Tannock congratulate new vice chancellor Celia Hammond. The ceremony took place during a special Mass at the university's Fremantle campus on Monday, August 4. See story on page 4. Photo: Peter Rosengren

SOME families who have been forced out of their rental accommodation are living in the family car, according to Vinnies.

The chief executive officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society's national council, Dr John Falzon, said that low income households who were forced to find their accommodation in the private rental market were among the most vulnerable groups in society.

"Half of the people seeking assistance from homelessness services across Australia are coming from the private rental market," he said.

"Some of these families are paying between 30 and 50 per cent of their meagre household incomes on rent.

"Where the market is failing ordinary Australians it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that all people have access to appropriate housing. This is a fundamental human right."

He added: "The members of Vinnies are seeing the effects of the long-term neglect in this area.

"We are seeing families being forced out of their rental accommodation; sometimes taking refuge temporarily in their cars."

Catholic Social Services Australia has called on the Federal Government to provide a "massive injection of funds" to support affordable housing.

Executive director Frank Quinlan said: "The National Rental Affordability Scheme is part of that, but there is a need for substantial investment in the long-term.

"In the short-term we need to look at providing the relief people are going to need in order to meet their rental payments or mortgage payments, and some of that is going to fall directly to the Government providing assistance through increased pensions and benefits and other entitlements that people enjoy."


Mr Quinlan was commenting on a report by Fujitsu Consulting and Wizard Home Loans which shows a million Sydney households, or 15 per cent of all home-loan borrowers, could be in

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