



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Housing & the Status of Women
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Plibersek,

The members of CLRI (NSW) were really delighted that you were able to come to their gathering and discuss issues of homelessness. Following on from that, CLRI (NSW) made a submission in response to the Green Paper on Homelessness. In that submission the CLRI research officer, Frances Egan, focussed on the needs and difficulties of refugees, particularly humanitarian refugees living in the western and south western suburbs of Sydney.

According to information we have received from one of our members there has been a rapid increase in the number of Sudanese made homeless by foreclosures of their landlords' investment properties. There are also unscrupulous bank, real estate and loan company officials offering loans, with huge mortgages attached, to newly arrived refugees with limited language and no knowledge of the banking system. Desperate for housing these people, reliant on Centrelink payments, take out loans without realising the repercussions.

Although the New Arrivals make up only a small percentage of the number of homeless people in Australia they are in a particularly desperate situation and have few resources. The NSW government has done little to support them.

Given your current programme of consultations regarding homelessness I thought it important to make the point that provision for long-term housing has to be factored into any planning for humanitarian refugees. We welcome the Australian government's generous provision for humanitarian refugees but ask that the re-settlement programmes take into account the vulnerability of New Arrivals when it comes to accessing and retaining adequate housing.

Thank you for all your efforts in tackling the issue of homelessness.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Libby Rogerson ibvm

9 July 2008

PO Box 259, ROSEBERY 1445
(72 Rosebery Avenue)

Ph: (02) 9663 2199 Email: clrinsw@ozemail.com.au Website: www.clrinsw.org