AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
FROM AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Don't turn your back on 9.1m cries for help.

A vital piece of Australia's social services infrastructure is in jeopardy.

Ask Izzy is the largest and most comprehensive directory connecting Australians experiencing hardship and crisis to the urgent support we and others provide.

Government and community services rely on it, and 9.1 million searches for help were made through it over the last year — the highest on record.

Yet at a time of considerable hardship, the Australian Government has withdrawn funding that helps sustain it.

We are the organisations on the front line. Australians in crisis find us through Ask Izzy and our service finders and referral pathways run on its shared directory. If it degrades, women and children fleeing domestic violence, parents struggling to feed their children and young people sleeping rough could lose the best way they have to find help.

This is a request for government to pay its share of the upkeep of essential social services infrastructure.

The government provides billions of dollars each year to service providers and Ask Izzy is the directory that connects Australians to these services.

The government helped establish Ask Izzy, and its agencies, funded services and vulnerable Australians rely on it every day.

We call on the Australian Government to restore funding for Ask Izzy through a commitment of $6 million over 3 years.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO MAKE FINDING HELP HARDER.

This open letter is endorsed by:

accan
acoss
alannah & madeline foundation
adf Alcohol and Drug Foundation
Anglicare Victoria
Annie North Inc.
CCA Community Council for Australia
Ending Loneliness Together
financial counselling australia
Foodbank
Good Things Australia
Greater Melbourne Foundation
justice connect
kids helpline anytime. anyreason.
Life Without Barriers
Mission Australia
OzHarvest
RSL NSW
Sacred Heart Mission
Second Bite Rescue. Grow. Cook. Share.
The Smith Family Learn today, change tomorrow.
St Vincent de Paul Society good works
Thriving Communities Australia
UnitingCare Australia

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