



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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\$341,000 Funding for Freeman House – Great News

Member for New England, Tony Windsor is thrilled with today's announcement by the Prime Minister that funding under Stage 2 of the Non Government Organisation Treatment Grants Programme will be forthcoming to Freeman House in Armidale.

"Funding of \$341,106 has been announced to cover the next 29 months of operation and will greatly assist in enhancing the service provided by Freeman House" Mr Windsor said

Freeman House is run by the Armidale Regional Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and was initially established as a refuge for homeless men some 25 years ago. Over the years Freeman House has evolved as a residential rehabilitation centre for people with drug, alcohol and gambling dependencies. It presently has the capacity to cater for 28 residents and provides a service seven days a week, 24 hours a day, all year round.

The funding will assist Freeman House to cover the wages of their 5 full-time staff and a number of casuals as well as one in-house counsellor and one outreach counsellor. The outreach counsellor will conduct programs for ex-residents and organise transitional arrangements for residents to assist in their re-establishment in mainstream society.

Mr Windsor said he welcomed this funding as he has visited Freeman House first hand and has seen the tremendous work done by the staff through the programs they run.

"The Freeman House Management Committee, staff and group of volunteers are a dedicated group of people who greatly deserve this support as they provide an invaluable service to the community" Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080