

Your ref:

Our ref: PQ

9 February 2009

Senator Bob Brown  
Australian Parliament  
Canberra  
A.C.T.

*By e-mail; copied to.Senators Xenophon and Fielding*

Dear Senator,

**Inquiry into the Rudd Government's proposed legislative "rescue package"**

On behalf of Redfern Legal Centre, I would like to make the following comments about the proposed Commonwealth mini-budget proposed by the Rudd Government but rejected by the members of the Opposition.

We support the proposals to provide free ceiling insulation to home-owners and to double the rebate available to landlords to instal insulation in their rental properties;

We strongly support the provision of \$10.5 billion to build 20,000 homes for the poor, and fix 2,500 vacant houses, but say that there is a lot more which needs to be done in this area. For example, in NSW alone, it is estimated that there are 50-100,000 homeless people.

We strongly support the grant of \$950.00 to singles and others, but this one-off grant is insufficient to enable unemployed people to live adequately. Accordingly, we support the proposal by the Australian Council of Social Services, to increase unemployment benefits for single people, by \$30.00 per week, minimum.

Yours faithfully

**REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE**

Penny Quarry  
Senior Solicitor

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