

## Stories of resilience and courage champion need for change

Ten single mothers working hard to keep their children out of poverty are featured in a new documentary - **10 Stories** - that premieres at Parliament House today.

The women - Wendy, Bianca, Dianne, Penny, Meredith, Kerry, Sarah, Barbara, Sam and Bienvenue - each share their story in their own words, highlighting their unique circumstances and experiences, all with the common theme of courage and resilience while struggling to make ends meet.

**CLICK THUMBNAIL TO WATCH THE VIDEO (EMBARGO ON SHARING/EMBEDDING TO 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH)**

"The sad fact is that these women are up to \$140 a week worse off than they were at the end of 2012 due to the change from the Single Parenting Payment to Newstart," said Terese Edwards, CEO of the National Council for Single Mothers and their Children.

"It may not seem like a lot of money to many Australians, but the impact on these ten women and their children is sobering. And there are 64,000 more families out there just like them.

"Moreover the vast majority have jobs and are working hard, in addition to raising children on their own."

**By giving these women a voice, 10 Stories enables viewers to hear first hand the experience of single mothers grappling with their situation and gives viewers the opportunity to learn from their experience.**

"It's clear there is no easy fix; what's needed is the acknowledgement from all MPs that a strategy is needed for tackling single parent poverty.

"We understand that governments of all persuasions make policy with the best of intentions and that there are many competing priorities for taxpayer dollars. However, sometimes there are unintended consequences of policy decisions, the extent of which is not apparent at the time, and this is one of those cases.

"It will surprise many people to learn that a staggering one in six Australians is living below the poverty line and about a quarter of them are children. Child poverty is a silent but looming crisis for our country."

**Ms Edwards said she had been heartened by the support received from across the political spectrum.**

"There is clearly an emerging understanding amongst our elected representatives that this is a serious issue and change is needed to prevent these families from living in poverty."

**10 Stories is a collaboration between a number of groups united by a shared concern for single parents struggling to create a bright future for their children. It intends to raise the profile of single parents and their families and start the conversation for change. Following the launch today, it will be shown in other community, business and philanthropic forums.**

"We all have a role to play. The solution is not simple, but important for our shared future. Let's start the conversation for change to end child poverty."



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**Documentary audio track available as mp3 from [terese@ncsmc.org.au](mailto:terese@ncsmc.org.au)**



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