



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
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More Support for Mortgage Stress

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, was today pleased to announced over half a million dollars in funding for the Samaritans Foundation to enhance their support services for those at risk of homelessness due to mortgage stress.

"Mortgage stress is a very real problem for so many working families," said Ms Grierson.

"The Federal Government welcomes the Reserve Bank of Australia's decision to not raise interest rates this month.

"However, keeping up house repayments and still making ends meet can be impossible for some.

"It is a very good thing that organisations like the Samaritans are there to help."

The additional funding - \$515,662 until June 2011 – will enable the Samaritans Foundation to assist what is a very vulnerable group in the community, by providing crisis support and working with individuals and families to resolve underlying issues and get their lives back on track for the long term.

The Samaritans will provide this support across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Cessnock.

"By securing this additional funding, the Samaritans Foundation can continue their vitally important work in the wider community."

The initiative is part of the Rudd Government's \$80.4 million commitment to emergency relief and financial counselling in response to the global economic recession.

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