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St Vincent de Paul Society welcomes NSW Government's energy efficiency plan

The St Vincent de Paul Society welcomes the Baird Government's \$61.5-million election pledge to create of a new Home Energy Action program to assist low-income and vulnerable households with energy efficiency.

Under the proposed plan, up to 60,000 households will get interest-free loans or discounts on new washing machines, fridges and water heaters resulting in substantial savings on energy bills over the next ten years.

St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, Michael Perusco says that the Society has been advocating for some time now for a number of recommendations for a fairer energy system in New South Wales.

"We are pleased to see proposals which look to assist the most vulnerable people in the community being put on the table. The Society has been calling for the review of the NSW energy customer protection framework and the reform of the NSW energy concessions scheme as well as the establishment of a permanent fund to support proven energy efficiency programs for low income households," said Mr Perusco.

Ray Reynolds, President, St Vincent de Paul Society believes that the proposal will have a positive impact on low-income families that are struggling to meet the costs of their bills let alone purchase new whitegoods.

"The reality is that most of the families we are assisting are buying second-hand fridges and washing machines. These older machines are less energy efficient and result in higher energy bills," said Mr Reynolds.

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