



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Virgin Home Loans Celebrity Spring Clean**

**18 October 2006** - Did you know that on any given night, more than 26,000<sup>[1]</sup> young Australians spend the night in shelters or on the streets? In fact less than half<sup>[2]</sup> of these homeless youth remain in the education system, entrenching them into long term homelessness with little support.

This growing problem is the focus of the inaugural Virgin Home Loans Celebrity Spring Clean, a charity auction bringing together a host of A-list celebrities to help tackle youth homelessness. Funds raised are going to Stretch-A Family, an adolescent fostering and community placement organisation and residential care provider for 12 - 18 year old homeless youth.

Stretch-A-Family Chief Executive Officer, Lilian Camenzuli, said, "Our aim is to break the cycle of homelessness and provide a safe and nurturing environment to meet the long term physical and developmental needs of the young people we assist. We also strive to educate the community about youth homelessness issues, and combat the discrimination and persecution of young people. Partnerships with companies such as Virgin will allow us the financial and strategic resources for our service to expand in scope and effectiveness."

To aid this organisation, Virgin Home Loans has collected 17 great items from celebrities' homes including Sir Richard Branson's dinner set, Megan Gale's couch, Rove McManus' TV and The Veronicas' guitar.

Many of the items are also autographed by their celebrity owner which will be auctioned off on a specially designed "EBay" style web-site.

Virgin Home Loans Director, Andrew Russell, said, "Virgin Home Loans is in the business of putting roofs over people's heads. Therefore supporting a charity that provides a home to young people seemed a perfect fit. The Stretch-A-Family is a fantastic organisation that we are thrilled to be able to support".

Through Celebrity Spring Clean, we urge all Australians who can afford their own homes or at least a roof over their heads, to show their support to Stretch-A-Family, a charity organisation that strives to break the cycle of youth homelessness in Australia.

To check out the pre-loved celebrity household items up for grabs, you can jump online now at [www.virginhomeloans.com.au/springclean](http://www.virginhomeloans.com.au/springclean).

Online bidding opens 8pm Thursday 19 October and closes at midnight on Sunday 29 October. So get smart, get sneaky, do whatever it takes to knock out the competition, place a bid and do your bit to support a great cause!

**- ENDS -**

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<sup>[1]</sup> 2001 Census figures of Australian's aged 12-18 years old

<sup>[2]</sup> 2001 Census figures show that only 41% or 12,227 youths, remain within the education system

**For interviews or to receive the full auction list:**

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**About Stretch-A-Family:**

Stretch-A-Family is an Australian charity that aims to break the cycle of homelessness by providing a safe and nurturing environment for the young people they assist. Stretch-A-Family also strives to educate the community about youth homelessness issues and works against forms of discrimination and persecution of young people.

**About Virgin Money:**

Virgin Money is the financial services arm of Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group. We launched in Australia in May 2003 to do one thing – shake up the financial services industry. Today, we are well on our way to achieving that goal with award-winning products spanning credit cards, superannuation and home loans. Virgin Money products are simple, great value and transparent, and they're backed up by our world-famous Virgin customer service. There's no funny stuff, just money stuff. <http://virginmoney.com.au>