

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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For Immediate Release

SA Job-Seekers Respond To Labor's Heartless Budget

SA job-seekers have reacted angrily to a Federal Budget that is based on huge subsidies and tax cuts for the big end of town, and crumbs – a \$2.86 a day raise for job-seekers – for those struggling to stay afloat.

"This budget surplus is built on the continuing suffering of Australians on very low incomes", said Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson, Duncan Bainbridge. "We have provided a number of statements from people on JobSeeker, at the cost-of-living coal face, some of whom are available for interviews", he said.

Fi stated that: *"The raise is pitiful. It will barely make a dent in my living & health expenses...so much for the Prime Minister from poverty."*

While Joshua said: *"An extra \$40 a fortnight does nothing for me. It might mean occasionally I eat twice a day, instead of once a day, or be able to get 3 or 4 extra items at the checkout, on the one day that I shop. It will not help me in getting to doctor's appointments from a rural area, to the city, the money would be gone in one trip. I am disappointed, but mostly angry."*

Another job-seeker, Rita, recalling the Prime Minister's promise on election night, stated: *"Albo said, "no one left behind", but we are left behind. Every single time. Some people will say, "better than nothing". But "better than nothing" doesn't pay the rent. "Better than nothing" doesn't put food on the table."*

Andrew said: *"This is a disgrace. I feel ignored, again. I worked for 15 years, paid taxes, before health issues intervened. Is it not reasonable to expect that the government will assist me to survive, when I need it?"*

While Anthea stated: *"I'm actually so angry, I'm struggling with my health, trying to buy food, and the government thinks that it is enough just to survive. Shame on them!!"*

Finally, Kelly said: *"It's not enough. It won't help me secure or pay for a rental property, especially being single. And it won't cover my next rental increase."*

"Millions of Australians are going to have a hungry, cold, stressful winter, because the Albanese government would rather have a budget surplus, than people being able to eat. Millions will suffer,

because the Albanese government would rather people skip medicines, than tackle the tens of billions of dollars the community loses, through tax concessions and breaks for the fossil fuels industry, the property industry, and the super-rich”, said Mr Bainbridge.

To organise media interviews with spokespeople, or people on JobSeeker:

Call Duncan Bainbridge on 0434 045 805, David Winderlich on 0401 380 782, or Pas Forgione on 0402 681 352; or e-mail info@apnsa.org.

Further info:

Cost of living

A recent ACOSS Cost Of Living Survey of people on JobSeeker highlighted the extent to which job-seekers are drowning because of skyrocketing living costs:

- More than half (56%) reported paying more than 50% of their income on rent, with 93% reporting ‘rental stress’ (paying 30% or more of their income in rent)
- 68% have had to eat less, or have had to skip meals
- 81% have had to cut back on meat, fresh fruit, and vegetables
- 54% have had to redirect money from other areas in their budget
- 65% have had to cut their use of heating and cooling

Job-searching

- Lifting JobSeeker will help people look for jobs because they can focus on interviews and applications rather than budgeting to make sure they can survive.
- There is 1 entry-level role, for every 15 jobseekers, and 44 percent of job vacancies require tertiary-level qualifications.
- Over 4 in 10 jobseekers have a diagnosed disability.