

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

An Insulting Raise That Will Keep JobSeeker Hundreds Of Dollars Per Week Below The Poverty-Line

This week, Parliament passed Labor's insulting \$2.86 a day increase to JobSeeker and Youth Allowance, an increase that will keep payments hundreds of dollars per week below the poverty-line.

A \$2.86 a day (\$20 a week) raise to JobSeeker is a betrayal to people who have been waiting years for a liveable income. Labor's announcement will leave the payment over \$35 a day (\$250 a week) below the Henderson poverty-line (\$88 a day)

Despite skyrocketing rents, the maximum rate of Rent Assistance – which only 40% of people on JobSeeker receive – is only increasing by \$1.68 a day (\$23 a fortnight).

Labor has ignored its own experts, by not listening to the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee, who recommended a "substantial raise" to JobSeeker.

"It is incredible that despite a now-\$19-billion surplus, Labor has refused to meaningfully lift the incomes of some of Australia's poorest residents, who are drowning in hardship, debt, and despair, and who will not notice this paltry raise.

Labor could have chosen differently. It could have prioritised the survival of people who are trying to put food on the table. It could have cancelled the Stage 3 tax cuts, and scrapped huge tax breaks for property investors, fossil fuel companies, and the super-rich, and diverted those funds to desperately-needed financial relief.

Instead, it chose to keep hundreds of thousands of people living on one of the lowest, stingiest welfare payments in the OECD", Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell said.

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.

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