

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

We Cannot Solve Homelessness Without Fixing The Rental Crisis And The Poverty Crisis

This year, Homelessness Week comes at a time of extraordinary hardship for people living in poverty, especially those renting – hardship that neither level of government is truly willing to fix.

Anti-Poverty Network SA calls for urgent action, during this time of skyrocketing living costs, including:

- Raising JobSeeker and other Centrelink payments to the Henderson poverty-line of \$88 a day
- An emergency, two-year freeze on rents
- A massive expansion of public housing stock

“Last week, Parliament passed Federal 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 raise will leave the payment \$35 a day (\$250 a week) below the Henderson poverty-line.

And, while there is ever-mounting pressure on governments to address the rental affordability emergency, so far, governments have refused to stop unlimited rent rises.

We know there are people being forced out of rentals, not because they are being evicted, but because it is impossible for them to afford the rent. We have seen huge rent increases of 10% or more, increases that have devastated people’s budgets.

We cannot have a truly fair rental system, until the State Government acts to stop unlimited rent rises. We reiterate our call for an emergency, two-year rent-freeze, followed by a system of rent controls.

We also know that with SA having a shortfall of 32,000 public homes, we need both levels of government to commit to a mass build of new public housing – we need thousands of extra public homes, not hundreds.

The Federal Government can fund a historic investment in public housing, rebuilding stock across the country, by scrapping the Stage 3 Tax Cuts, and the tens of billions of dollars, annually, that the community loses, through subsidies to property investors, and the mining industry, and other wealthy vested interests.”, Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Michael Petrilli said.

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