

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Inquiry failure leaves people in poverty in despair

The Albanese election call of "No one left behind" rings more hollow with each passing day

The Anti Poverty Network SA stands with the Anti Poverty Centre in categorically rejecting the Senate Community Affairs Committee's pathetically inadequate recommendations arising from its [inquiry](#) into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia. The report was tabled in the Senate last night.

The poverty inquiry report is just the latest in a long line of deep disappointments faced by welfare recipients under the Albanese government.

These recommendations are an insult to the hundreds of welfare recipients who contributed to the inquiry and to the millions of people living well below the poverty line in this country.

At the same time as living cost increases are far outstripping changes in Centrelink payment rates, the government is actively pursuing higher unemployment, condemning more of us to live in deep poverty for reasons beyond our control.

Antipoverty Centre spokesperson Jay Coonan said; "The welfare system is killing people. Our lives are getting harder, and it's clear that most politicians do not care whether we live or die."

The Henderson poverty line for a single person working is set at \$597.31, however, it is well worth remembering that the median weekly income in Australia in August 2023 was \$1,300, for part-time and \$1,600 for full-time workers.

"These shameful figures put this country well below the OECD poverty line of \$650 per week, which means that people are forced to choose between eating, buying medicine and paying the bills," Anti Poverty Network SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell said.

Despite having a Labor-Greens majority, the committee couldn't even bring itself to make the single most obvious recommendation that can drastically cut poverty overnight: higher income support.

We don't need more reviews, we don't need more consideration, we just need all Centrelink payments increased to at least the Henderson poverty line and we need it now.

The answers are clear. It's time now to act.

"Poverty is a choice – our government's choice, it is not a; "*wicked problem*", it is a Political Choice."

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