

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

'Not Even Enough For A Packet Of Pasta' - 97-Cents-A-Day JobSeeker Raise Will Leave People Behind In Deep Poverty

**Almost 2 years into the Albanese Government, Jobseekers are still being left behind
– unemployment payments must be lifted out of poverty at May Federal Budget**

The March 20 indexation of JobSeeker and other Centrelink allowances – the automatic, twice-a-year raise to help JobSeeker keep pace with rising living costs – will do little for people living hundreds of dollars per week below the poverty-line.

The \$6.75-a-week – or 97-cents-a-day – increase to the single rate of JobSeeker, bringing the payment to \$54-a-day – \$375-a-week – will do little for people struggling with skyrocketing rents, and other soaring living costs.

“This increase – not even a dollar a day – is barely enough to cover a packet of pasta, and will not be noticed by people who are still coping heartbreakingly with rent rises of \$30, \$40, \$50 dollars, or more, as well as contending with rises in food, medical, utility, and other basic expenses”, Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson, Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Jasmin Witham said.

Fi, who is on JobSeeker Payment, said: *“This indexation is just laughable. How can the government not see the dire situation so many of us are in right now? 97 cents a day will not help many of us to stay housed and fed.”*

Ms Witham said: *“Almost two years ago, the Albanese government was elected on a promise to ‘Leave No One Behind’, but people on JobSeeker have been largely forgotten. Last year’s Federal Budget saw an insulting and miserable \$2”.86-a-day rise to JobSeeker. With this latest indexation, JobSeeker will still be \$34-a-day – \$238-a-week – below the Henderson poverty-line of \$88-a-day.*

The Albanese government is dreaming, if it thinks its work is done: this year’s Federal Budget needs to finish the job, by lifting JobSeeker, and other Centrelink payments, out of poverty.

With increasing public attention on the billions of dollars of revenue that the federal government foregoes, because of tax concessions, subsidies, and other public assistance for mining and fossil fuel

giants, property developers and investors, and others doing handsomely well, while many in the community struggle to eat, there is truly no excuse for the Albanese government to not prioritise lifting people out of poverty.

The Albanese government needs to ensure that every Australian can live with dignity – that no one has to skip meals, or struggle to keep a roof over their head.”

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