

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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For Immediate Release

A Dollar A Day Won't Keep Poverty Away

Pathetic JobSeeker Indexation Fails To Deliver Real Relief

Today the welfare indexation is well below what is needed to end the cruel poverty that Australians are subject to. With a measly increase of \$1.09 per day (2%)[1]. The JobSeeker allowance is still going to be \$31.92 per day below the poverty line.[2]

Imagine living in this cost of living crisis with \$446.94 per fortnight less than you should otherwise have in your bank account.

People are really struggling on the minimum wage at \$1,831.80 per fortnight right now[3], but picture if that was reduced to the new allowance of \$778 per fortnight[1], how would you feed and shelter yourself, let alone care for your loved ones?

APN-SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell says: "Poverty is a serious issue in Australia, and it is a political choice if we want to subject our fellow people to this cruel fate. This looks like people skipping meals, going without heating or cooling, forgoing medicine, or seeing doctors [4]. These are the most basic needs being compromised, but this is also incredibly isolating as socialising is a major aspect of life and the small things like getting a coffee or lunch with a group of friends becomes aspirational rather than a given."

People on welfare are people. They have the same needs as anyone else, and to deprive them of that is cruelty. We want the federal government to raise the welfare rates to the Henderson Poverty line of \$1,224.94 per fortnight [2] and help people on welfare build their lives up from the horror the government has subjected them to. Abolish the cruelty, end poverty.

Further Info: Call David Winderlich on 0401 380 782, Brendan Folwell on 0428 741 601, or Duncan Bainbridge on 0434 045 805 or e-mail info@apnsa.org.

- [1] 'Social Security Rates Indexation', Department of Social Services, 18/09/2024,
<https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2024/rates-list-20-september-2024.pdf>
- [2] 'Poverty lines Australia March Quarter 2024', Melbourne Institute, 18/09/2024,
<https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/4961229/Poverty-Lines-Australia-March-Quarter-2024.pdf>
- [3] 'Minimum Wages', Fair Work Ombudsman, 18/09/2024,
<<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay-and-wages/minimum-wages>>
- [4] 'Chapter 3 - The human impact of poverty', Parliament of Australia, 05/2023, 18/09/2024,
<https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/PovertyinAustralia/Interim_Report/Chapter_3_-_The_human_impact_of_poverty>

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