

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Candidates To Be Quizzed By Low-Income People At Spence Forum

'A Future For Spence: Your Voice Matters': Spence Candidate Forum

Saturday March 22, 12pm-2pm

Playford Women's Shed, 180 Phillip Highway, Elizabeth South

Available For Media: Event Organisers, Low-Income Residents

Candidates for the electorate of Spence, covering Adelaide's disadvantaged northern suburbs, will be quizzed about the poverty crisis and the housing crisis – and what they will urgently do to fix these crises – by low-income residents who have been hardest-hit by financial hardship and housing insecurity, at a unique forum hosted by Anti-Poverty Network SA and Playford Women's Shed.

Community members will provide the Candidates with testimonies and reflections of how they have experienced the struggles of trying to keep a roof over their head and put food on the table, while living on some of the lowest welfare payments in the developed world.

The meeting will ask the Candidates where they stand on raising JobSeeker. Ending the punishing "Mutual Obligation" requirements. The significant need to expand public housing, why there are tax breaks for property investors, and other critical issues.

This event falls on the 5-year anniversary of the temporary doubling of JobSeeker by the Morrison Government, when it raised JobSeeker above the poverty-line through the COVID Supplement, and 2 days after the next JobSeeker indexation, an automatic, \$1.55/week increase that still leaves JobSeeker (\$57/day), over \$200/week below the Henderson poverty-line (\$86/day).

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Sara Walker said: "*The socio-economic crisis in Spence is steadily worsening, with rising rents, food, health, and energy costs pushing more residents into hardship. Secure jobs have dwindled, leaving many in unstable work or reliant on welfare payments below the poverty-line. Families face impossible choices between electricity and food, while emergency relief services are overwhelmed.*

Government action remains pathetically inadequate, as more people slip through the cracks. The community cannot wait—urgent change is needed now. Every dollar counts for people living on Centrelink payments – people are at breaking point!! We cannot keep being told to be patient for change, or grateful for crumbs!!

Further Info: Pas Forgione on 0402 681 352 or info@apnsa.org

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