

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

“Groundhog Day For The Poor” Another Nothing-Budget!

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Pas Forgione said: “*On Federal Budget night, once again the poorest Australians – people on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and other Centrelink payments – are invisible and expendable.*

Millions of Australians are trapped in deep poverty, drowning because of soaring rents, and starvation-level welfare payments. The Albanese Government’s final Budget before the Election did nothing for them.

Despite the Government’s own body, the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee, for a third time recommending a significant raise to JobSeeker and other income support payments, the Budget provided no lifeline to people who are struggling to afford food, medication, and power. A \$3 a week energy subsidy will barely be felt by people coping \$40 a week rent rises, and even the tax cut for low-income earners, only equates to 73 cents a day.

Our housing system needs an emergency overhaul, but instead, we have been given distractions. A ban on foreign ownership is a red herring, when only 1% of homes are foreign-owned. Expanding subsidy-schemes like Help To Buy, will only add to soaring house values, mostly help those already close to home ownership, and do nothing for those on the lowest incomes.

Instead of a trickle, we need massive, nation-transforming investment in public housing: tens of thousands of new public homes, every year, to reach the critical target of [940,000 extra public homes by 2041](#), as advocated by researchers and charities.

Instead, we are stuck with hamster-wheel taxpayer-funded handouts for property investors costing the community over \$15 billion annually, adding fuel to the housing fire; over \$5 billion yearly on fossil fuels subsidies; and soaring defence spending.”

Comments from Mel, a South Australian job-seeker, on how hard it is to survive on JobSeeker Payment ([full remarks here](#)):

“It’s iron infusions because meat is too expensive. It’s getting diagnosed with scurvy and malnutrition because you’ve been living on pasta bread and noodles. It’s toothaches and losing teeth because you can’t afford a dentist. It’s losing any shred of self-esteem that you once had.”

Further Info: Pas Forgiore on 0402 681 352 or Duncan Bainbridge 0434 045 805 or info@apnsa.org

Ph: (08) 8451 1589 W: apn-sa.org Fb: facebook.com/antipovertynetworksa Insta: instagram.com/antipovertynetworksa TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@apn_sa