

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor Should Use Decisive Win To Take Bold, Decisive Action On Poverty + Housing

The comfortable and decisive re-election of the Albanese government – with one of the largest seat-majorities in decades – should be used as a unique opportunity to take the bold, necessary action needed to fix this country's poverty crisis and housing crisis.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Pas Forgione said: *"While Saturday's election result is a defeat for the politics of punching-down and scape-goating, Australia still faces profound challenges: skyrocketing rents, a massive shortage of public housing, and the most inadequate welfare payments in the developed world.*

People who are spending 50%, 60%, 70% of their income, on rent, who are skipping meals and medications, will be in a less celebratory mood, than the Albanese government. They will be asking, when will the newly re-elected government take seriously its still-used commitment of 'No One Left Behind'?

Its first term in government saw virtually no action on the unlivable rate of JobSeeker, and its public housing commitments do not come even remotely close to meeting community need, with public housing waiting lists still at record highs, and 940,000 extra public homes needed nationally, by 2041, according to researchers. But the Albanese government should use its commanding parliamentary majority and political position to finally take the steps needed to tackle the heart of our poverty and housing crises", Mr. Forgione said.

At the top of its agenda should be:

- *Raising Centrelink payments, particularly JobSeeker – over \$200/week below the poverty-line – out of poverty, so that every single person in this country can live with dignity and wellbeing*
- *Listening to the testimonies of job-seekers across the country whose lives have been harmed by our cruel, stressful, dysfunctional, and probably illegal "Mutual" Obligation regime, by suspending this system of hoops, that does nothing but punish job-seekers, and waste their time*
- *Scrapping the Negative Gearing and Capital Gains tax concessions, which have contributed to soaring housing values, and cost taxpayers over \$15 billion annually that could be spent on building tens of thousands of extra public homes – a popular move, according to recent polling*

Anti-Poverty Network SA will continue to fight for a country where no one is living in poverty, and everyone can access housing that is affordable, decent, and secure.

For media inquiries, including speaking to low-income people and renters about what they want the re-elected Albanese government to prioritise: Pas Forgione at info@apnsa.org or 0402 681 352, or Duncan Bainbridge on 0434 045 805.

W: apn-sa.org **Fb:** facebook.com/antipovertynetworksa **Insta:** instagram.com/antipovertynetworksa