

2026 Federal Budget Response – Key Messages

Main Messages

- **This is an irresponsible Federal Budget, full of wasted opportunities, that condemns people to poverty and permanent housing insecurity**
- We could have seen historic tax reform to create a fairer country, with the funds used to build massive numbers of public homes, and lift people across the country out of poverty
- But instead, once again, we got half-measures that mostly allow the rich to keep their tax perks, while people continue to sleep in tents
- Tinkering will not get us out of this crisis – and let this be a message to the State Government, who hand down their State Budget in 3 weeks – baby steps will not save people who are sinking into despair and indefinite housing crisis

Tax Reform

- While we are glad to see progress on cracking down on taxpayer handouts for property investors, the changes to the Capital Gains Tax and Negative Gearing tax breaks **do not go anywhere near far enough**
- The reckless decision to grandfather the announced changes means that [we miss out on almost \\$20 billion of revenue per year](#) – revenue that could be spent on more public housing, lift people out of poverty, and other community needs
- The cowardly refusal to put a 25% tax on gas exports is not only a slap in the face to community attitudes, but will cost us \$17 billion per year, that could be spent on community needs

Public Housing

- There is no new funding for public housing – we are not building anywhere near enough public housing to meet growing need – we are going backwards!!
- We need a long-term target of 940,000 public homes over the next 20 years, according to Everybody's Home
- **SA has 14,000 people on the public housing waiting list** – and while there has been some progress, commitments collapse in future years, and **soon, we will not even be building enough new public homes to match population growth, let alone unmet need**

JobSeeker

- Unemployed people have once again been left behind
- After 4 years of an Albanese Government, we still have a JobSeeker payment that leaves people trapped in crisis, debt, and misery
- **We still have a JobSeeker payment that is over \$200/week below the Henderson Poverty-Line**, one of the stingiest unemployment benefits in the developed world

- There is overwhelming community support for raising JobSeeker – recent ACOSS polling showed that [3 in 4 people support a JobSeeker raise](#), believe that people on JobSeeker do not deserve to live in poverty
- According to [ACOSS research](#), people on JobSeeker are:
 - 14 times more likely to go without a full daily meal
 - 9 times more likely to lack a phone or a car
 - 8 times more likely to lack access to home internet or a washing machine
- According to Anglicare's latest Rental Affordability Snapshot, of 67,000 rentals, only 1 was affordable for someone on JobSeeker