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## Together we can end child poverty

Anti-Poverty Week 2023 will focus on coming together to end child poverty. It's not right that more than 1 in 6 Australian children are growing up in poverty. It diminishes their lives now and in the future. The 2022 Foodbank Hunger report released in APW 2022 found 1.3 million children under 18 are living in a household where someone or all are hungry. This was powerfully explained in a March 7.30 story [Single Mum Tiffany goes hungry to ensure her kids have enough to eat](#). Growing up in poverty affects children's ability to learn at school, their sense of belonging and connectedness, it affects their physical and mental health, and they worry about their parents. They are often frequently moving due to high rents, which disrupts school and friendships, and are now more at risk of homelessness. We are calling for all our Parliamentarians to pass legislation to end child poverty. [Watch](#) the recent [Valuing Children Initiative](#) international webinar on steps to enact child poverty reduction legislation across the world.

**Let's make sure that all Australian children and families can cover the basics and have a secure roof over their head. Children can thrive and be healthy when they have what they need to develop well.**



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Uniting Church chaplain Robert asked for the meeting due to his concerns about high rates of child poverty in Geelong and across the nation. He was joined by single parent Lizzi, Andi Sebastian from the Victorian Council for Single Mothers and Their Children and APW Executive Director Toni Wren. The delegation congratulated the Government on the Budget initiatives to increase some income support payments and extend eligibility to Parenting Payment Single until the youngest child turns 14 not 8 but powerfully made the case that much more should be done. Concerns about housing insecurity and risk of homelessness, lack of access to after school sport and the poor state of job services system were all key concerns raised with the Minister.

## “It’s time to end homelessness” Homelessness Week 7-13 August 2023



Join in and download the Homelessness Week [Supporter Pack here](#).  
[Register here](#) for the launch event 7 August which will focus on **Ending First Nations Homelessness**.

No matter who you are or where you come from, everyone needs a safe, decent and affordable home. **Homelessness is both preventable and solvable**. Join us in calling on the Federal Government to ensure the forthcoming National Housing and Homelessness Plan provides:

- Adequate incomes
- A home
- Freedom from violence and abuse
- Effective support to gain and retain housing.

Sign the Everybodys Home Petition [here](#)

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## Accepting the invitation to walk together for a fairer Australia for all

Anti-Poverty Week accepts the invitation to walk with our First Nations brothers and sisters in seeking a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution. We can work together to create a future where First Nations people are respected, listened to and have the power to make decisions about their lives. Voting Yes in the referendum is an important step towards a society that respects First Nations people and culture and leads to meaningful improvements in the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

As Professor Megan Davis said on 12/7/23: ***“The Voice will lift the bonnet to see why the engine isn’t working and provide actual solutions to problems – not just develop endless reports showing the inadequacies. If we are at the table when decisions about us are made and our input leads to better quality laws and policies, the gap will close significantly... Until then, it’s more of the same.”***

How you can be part of this step forward: **Have a conversation** with your family, workplace and community. Resources to help the conversation: [The Case for Voting Yes pamphlet](#) now released - a great summary of the Yes case including powerful quotes from First Nations leaders and community members. See also:

- [Uluru Statement from the Heart website](#)
- Share Link to [Statement from the Heart videos](#)
- [Yes 23 campaign](#)

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[Join Together Yes](#)

- a kitchen conversations movement

## Robodebt Royal Commission report: never again and a chance to reset the welfare debate to one of *respect*

**Commissioner Catherine Holmes**, SC included these powerful observations in her final report: "*Politicians need to lead a change in social attitudes to people receiving welfare payments... and abandon for good (in every sense) the narrative of taxpayer versus welfare recipient.*" She said the Robodebt scheme exemplified a mindset of "*generally making the condition of the social security recipient unpleasant and undesirable*" when government could adopt a different mindset that recognised that "***many citizens will at different times in their lives need income support — on a temporary basis for some as they study or look for work; longer term for others, for reasons of age, disadvantage or disability — and to provide that support willingly, adequately and with respect.***"

Anti-Poverty Week was pleased to see Minister Bill Shorten take up this challenge: "***There should be no judgement in someone seeking the government safety net. It's what it's there for...as Australians we can all have difficult journeys and sometimes you need a hand. The lot of government is to help not hurt.***" [7am podcast](#) 10/7/23

Read the report on the [Royal Commission website](#)



## JobSeeker rise confirmed as \$4 a day from 20 September



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September. This includes the \$40 a fortnight increase announced in the Budget and a 2.2% increase for inflation. Rent assistance will increase by between \$18-\$37 a fortnight. This is less than \$20 a week. No announcements were made on the increase for Parenting Payment Single - we expect that will be a 2.2% increase for inflation after the Government decided not to include them in the \$40 a fortnight Budget increase. Anti-Poverty Week continued to raise our concern given the very high rates of poverty experienced by single parent families and their children in our [submission](#) to the Senate Committee examining the legislation. The legislation is due to be debated in the Senate this week. The Coalition has announced its intention to put forward an amendment to increase the amount jobseekers can earn before they lose benefits, instead of supporting the \$40 increase.

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## Australian Wellbeing Framework launched

Anti-Poverty Week welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to a Wellbeing Framework and the first report on it [Measuring What Matters](#), released on 21/7/23. While the Framework acknowledges inclusion, fairness and equity as cross-cutting dimensions, the indicators selected to date do not include measures of poverty or wealth inequality. We also know that we can't improve children's wellbeing without tackling child poverty. Read our March submission [here](#).



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