

ACOSS Indicators of Inequality Factsheet

The Community Sector employs over half a million people

- The majority of these people are employed by not-for-profit organisations.
- 81% of those employed in the Community Sector are women.
- In 2006-07, the not-for-profit sector accounted for 4.1% of Australia's GDP.
- 325,440 volunteers worked in the Community Sector in 2008-09.

The number of people being turned away from services is on the rise

- 1 in 16 people were turned away from community services in 2008-09.
- In 2008-09, people received information, advice and referral from community services 6,700,000 times.
- In 2008-09, there were 4,600,000 cases of individual and family support from community services.
- Preliminary figures from ACOSS' 2011 Australian Community Sector Survey indicate that the number of people being accessing and being turned away from services is on the rise:
 - Turnaways from disability services increased by 39%;

- housing and homelessness services increased by 19%;
- youth services and youth welfare services increased by 30%.
- The largest increase in turnaway rates is in the area of Emergency Relief services, which has increased by approximately 47%. Emergency Relief services turned away, on average, 100 people eligible for their service in 2009-10.
- More than half (54.8%) of the 745 survey respondents indicated that they are struggling to meet demand.
- These turnaway rates have been confirmed by our major charities, which report jumps of up to 30% in people seeking help over the 2010-11 Christmas holiday period.

Over 2.2 million people in Australia are estimated to be living in poverty

- 75% of these people are in a household where no-one has paid work.
 - 25% of single adults are living in poverty.
 - Approximately 12 per cent of children in Australia live in poverty.
-
- Approximately 2.2 million people or 11.1 per cent of Australians lived in poverty in 2006 – the latest date for which statistics are available – compared with 9.9 per cent in 2004 and 7.6 percent in 1994.
 - In the 2006 Census, 105,000 people were homeless, but ACOSS believes this is likely to be higher.
 - Australia spends only 3.2% of GDP on income support, while the OECD average is 6.5%.

- Between 2000 and 2010, the CPI rose by 36.5%. The largest increase was in the price of water and sewerage, which rose by 90%, followed by electricity, which rose by 87.4%.
- Rents have increased since 2000 by 46.5%. The median rent for a single bedroom flat in Sydney is now \$400 a week; in Melbourne it is now \$289 a week.

Also see ACOSS Poverty Report October 2011:

http://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACOSS_poverty_report_October_2010.pdf

1.1 million Australian families in housing stress

- As at 2007, there were over 1,100,000 Australian families in housing stress, i.e. they paid more than 30% of their income on recurrent housing costs.
- Those families in housing stress comprised 10% of Australian families.
- Housing stress varies by tenure:
 - renters in the private rental market comprised over half of the families in housing stress in Australia in 2007;
 - 47.5% of low-income households in the private rental market in Australia were in rental stress in 2007–08;
 - 46.6% of low-income households with a mortgage were in mortgage stress across Australia in 2007–08.

- Nationally, in 2007–08, those paying more than 30% of their gross income in housing costs included:
 - 445,000 private renters with incomes in the lowest 40% of the income distribution;
 - 117,000 private renters who were wholly depending on government income support;
 - 312,000 mortgagees with incomes in the lowest 40% of the income distribution; and
 - 27,000 mortgagees who were wholly depending on government income support.

SOURCE: National Shelter, February 2011: <http://www.shelter.org.au/archive/fly-factsheet-australia.pdf>

long term unemployment is going up

- The long-term unemployment rate increased in February this year by more than 6,500 to 356,375 from 349,806 in January 2011.
- Since 2000, average adult male weekly earnings have increased by 60.8%. They are now \$1342.58 a week.
- The Newstart Allowance has increased by approximately 49.6% since 2000 and is now \$237.45 a week for a single person with no children.
- The Youth Allowance, for those aged 18 and over and living away from their parents' home is \$194.35 a week.

- The difference between the Newstart Allowance and the Age Pension is now \$127 per week.
- The difference between the Newstart Allowance and average adult male weekly earnings is \$1,104.38 a week.

Gap between rich and poor on the rise

- The last figures on Household Income and Income Distribution (2009 shows a marked increase between rich and poor widened between 2004 and 2008. No new figures since.
- The gap between rich and poor has widened between 2002-03 and 2007-08. In 2002-03, the lowest quintile had a 7.9% share in income and the highest quintile had a 38.3% share.
- In 2007-08, the lowest quintile had a 7.4% share in income and the highest had a 40.5% share in income. In monetary figures, this is \$225 a week for the lowest quintile in 2002-03 and \$1124 for the highest quintile.
- And, in 2007-08 this was \$229 for the lowest quintile and \$1646 for the highest quintile.

SOURCE: ABS (2009): Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2007-08.
[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/32F9145C3C78ABD3CA257617001939E1/\\$File/65230_2007-08.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/32F9145C3C78ABD3CA257617001939E1/$File/65230_2007-08.pdf)

Cost of living as measured by the CPI has increased by 34 % since 2000

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) studies the price changes of various groups of common goods and services, arranged within the following categories:
 - Food; Alcohol & Tobacco; Clothing & Footwear; Housing; Health; Household Contents & Services; Transportation; Communication; Recreation; Education; Financial & Insurance Services.
- Each of these categories contains subcategories; for instance, the Housing category contains subcategories such as Electricity and Rent.
- The general CPI measures all of these costs, taken from the individual item costs within each major city.

Table 2: CPI, 2000 – 2010

Year	Mar quarter	June quarter	Sept quarter	Dec quarter	Annual
2000	125.2	126.2	130.9	131.3	128.4
2001	132.7	133.8	134.2	135.4	134.0
2002	136.6	137.6	138.5	139.5	138.1
2003	141.3	141.3	142.1	142.8	141.9
2004	144.1	144.8	145.4	146.5	145.2
2005	147.5	148.4	149.8	150.6	149.1
2006	151.9	154.3	155.7	155.5	154.4
2007	155.6	157.5	158.6	160.1	158.0
2008	162.2	164.6	166.5	166.0	166.2
2009	166.2	167.0	168.6	169.5	167.9
2010	171.0	172.1	173.3	174.0	172.6
Change	45.8	45.9	42.4	42.7	44.2
% change	36.5%	36.3%	32.4%	32.5%	34.4%

Table 3: CPI categories, 2000 – 2010

Annual	Food	Clothing Footwear	Housing	Education	Health	Transport
2000	131.3	109.3	104.3	187.2	161.4	133.6
2001	139.9	111.8	109.3	195.4	166.4	137.3
2002	149.4	113.2	112.9	204.9	175.1	138.8
2003	150.2	113.1	117.8	214.9	187.8	141.3
2004	153.8	111.9	121.3	227.4	196.7	142.9
2005	157.5	110.1	127.1	246.0	208.7	150.3
2006	169.6	108.1	131.3	259.1	218.9	157.7
2007	172.9	109.1	136.7	269.9	228.1	159.8
2008	181.8	109.3	145.2	282.0	239.2	168.2
2009	188.5	111.4	153.1	297.0	250.9	162.0
2010	191.4	107.8	161.5	314.0	263.6	165.8
Change	60.1	-1.5	57.2	127.0	102.2	32.2
% change	45.8%	-1.4%	54.8%	67.8%	63.3%	24.1%

- Since 2000, the main CPI index has increased by 34.4%.
- Within this, the largest increases were in the subcategories of water and sewerage (90.0%), and electricity (87.4%).
- Both of these subcategories are part of the Housing category, which itself increased by 54.8.
- The main category increase, however, was that of Education, which increased by 67.8%; followed by health at 63.3%.

Table 4: CPI subcategories, 2000 – 2010

Annual	HOUSING						HEALTH	
	Rents	Utilities	Electricity	Gas & other household fuels	Water and sewerage	Childcare	Dental	Pharmaceuticals
2000	127.3	127.8	123.8	141.2	107.3	139.7	164.4	134.5
2001	131.4	135.0	132.4	142.7	109.6	133.3	172.1	137.6
2002	134.5	140.6	137.1	150.5	113.9	144.0	180.8	139.3
2003	137.1	158.2	145.1	159.8	118.6	163.9	190.6	143.6
2004	140.5	153.0	147.9	168.8	123.1	184.1	200.9	146.3
2005	143.7	158.7	152.1	177.5	128.3	204.1	212.3	153.7
2006	148.3	165.4	156.4	185.5	136.7	230.4	224.1	157.8
2007	156.4	173.0	163.5	193.0	144.2	212.4	234.4	160.3
2008	168.6	189.4	179.9	208.6	158.0	161.4	246.0	163.4
2009	179.9	211.6	201.5	226.5	179.9	149.0	256.5	167.3
2010	187.7	239.9	232.0	246.8	203.9	158.7	266.3	169.7
Change	60.4	112.1	108.2	105.6	96.6	19	101.9	35.2
% increase	47.4%	87.7%	87.4%	74.8%	90.0%	13.6%	62.0%	26.2%