

A Guarantee To The Nation

Community organisations'
call to the Parties



People in Australia need decent essential services and safety nets and a genuine response to climate change.

We need a government with the resources to deliver.

8/12/21

Australia faces big challenges. We can't afford a small or inactive government. That's why we seek a Guarantee from the Parties in the forthcoming election to fund essential services, safety nets and a genuine response to climate change.

The COVID19 Pandemic and the 'Black Summer' Bushfires exposed the weaknesses of our most basic social, economic and environmental supports. However, these crises also demonstrated the power of governments to protect and advance our incomes, jobs and health. In the initial response to COVID19:

- Poverty was halved when the COVID supplement was available
- Over 700,000 jobs were saved
- Childcare was affordable
- People sleeping on the streets were housed.

As we emerge from the pandemic, Australia must confront persistent poverty and inequality, an ageing population, mental health and domestic violence, and the catastrophic threat of climate change.

We are among the wealthiest nations in the world. However, there are major weaknesses in our economic, social and environmental protections:

- Income support payments of \$45 a day, well below the poverty line
- A growing number of people can't afford housing
- Long waits for care services that are often of very poor quality
- Pressure to reduce funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Neglect of dental and mental health care
- Employment services that have failed to reduce entrenched, long-term unemployment
- The decline of our public and community education and training infrastructure
- Failure to 'close the gap' with community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services
- Inadequate public investment in the transition to a clean economy, disaster resilience and help for people to adapt to global warming.

We call on our political leaders to guarantee that if they win government, they will raise the resources needed to meet the big challenges and properly fund essential services and income supports rather than cutting them back.

As one of the world's wealthiest nations (in terms of household wealth) and the ninth-lowest taxing wealthy country, we need these guarantees from our next political leaders.

We call on our political leaders to guarantee the resources need for decent essential services, safety nets and a genuine response to climate change.

1. Reset the Budget to ensure we have an appropriate benchmark of public investment to meet community needs:

- A. Guarantee affordable, quality essential services for those who need them;
- B. Raise income supports and build social housing to lift people out of poverty and end homelessness;
- C. Invest in fast, fair and inclusive action on, and strengthen people's resilience to, climate change.

2. Strengthen public revenue to pay for this in a fair and sustainable way:

- A. Rescind unaffordable tax cuts for people on higher incomes;
- B. Review the tax system to strengthen revenue and improve fairness, with a focus on tax concessions that are economically and socially harmful and elimination of fossil fuel subsidies;
- C. Shield people with the least resources from any spending reductions.

A call to the Parties from:



Organisation Names:

- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA)
- Anti Poverty Week
- CHOICE
- cohealth
- Economic Justice Australia
- Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Infoxchange
- Jesuit Social Services
- Mission Australia
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- Not-for-Profit & Charity Community Consultants (NFPCCC) Indigenous Corporation
- Diverse Communities & Social Services (DCSS Australia)
- Settlement Services International
- St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia
- Life Without Barriers
- Brotherhood of St. Laurence
- National Shelter
- Good Shepherd
- Consumers Health Forum
- Oxfam
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Baptist Care
- Volunteering Australia
- Consumer Action Law Centre
- National Council of Single Mothers & their Children
- Social Futures
- Australian Community Workers Association
- People with Disability Australia
- ACTCOSS
- WACOSS
- NTCOSS
- VCOSS
- SACOSS
- QCOSS

Briefing materials from ACOSS

Policy options to strengthen public revenue and improve fairness

A set of high-level policy options to raise the public revenue we need.

[Accessible Version Here](#)

Budget challenges for the next government

Analysis of the expenditure challenges the next Government will face.

[Accessible Version Here](#)