

Australian Council of Social Service

26 October 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

ACOSS welcomes the Committee's Inquiry into the Extent and Nature of Poverty in Australia.

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) is a national voice in support of people affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality and the peak body for the community services and civil society sector. Established in 1956, we have been working for more than 60 years for a fairer Australia.

ACOSS consists of a network of approximately 4000 organisations and individuals across Australia in metro, regional and remote areas.

Our vision is an end to poverty in all its forms; economies that are fair, sustainable and resilient; and communities that are just, peaceful and inclusive.

To this end, we develop policy and conduct research on poverty and inequality, engage with our diverse networks of members, allies, and people directly affected and advocate for systemic policy reform.

ACOSS looks forward to engaging with the Committee in its work and will make further, more detailed contributions in the coming months on the body of research evidence we have developed in collaboration with UNSW on the extent and nature of poverty in Australia and policy priorities to reduce poverty.

In the interim, we attach for the Committee's reference the most recent and relevant reports from ACOSS and the ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership on poverty in Australia, including:

- [Poverty in Australia 2022: A Snapshot](#) (published October 2022)
- [How Jobseeker and other payments are falling behind the cost of living](#) (September 2022)
- [Covid, inequality and poverty in 2020 and 2021: Build Back Fairer Report No. 3](#) (March 2022)

- [Australian Income Support since 2000: Those left behind. Build Back Fairer Report No. 2](#) (October 2021)
- [Analysis of income support in the COVID lockdowns in 2020-21](#) (October 2021)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Goldie".

Dr Cassandra Goldie
CEO