



# Australian Council of Social Service

24 April 2023

The Hon Anthony Albanese  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We all want the security of knowing that we'll be supported during tough times. But right now, the rate of income support is so low that people are being forced to choose between paying their rent or buying enough food and medicine.

As a result, people experience chronic mental and physical health issues, they're forced into homelessness and insecure housing, trapped with abusive partners, and locked out of paid work because they don't have the money they need to retrain and re-enter the workforce.

It is long past time that we addressed this structural injustice. That's why we urge you to adopt the priority recommendation of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee and raise the rate of income support in the May 2023 federal budget.

Even before the cost-of-living crisis, income support payments weren't nearly enough to cover basic expenses, but now people struggling to get by on \$50 a day face increased deprivation.

In the last twelve months, rents in capital cities have risen by about 22 per cent and food prices have skyrocketed. While everyone in our community is feeling the impact of these cost-of-living pressures, people on income support are going without food and other basics because they have nothing left to cut back on in their budget.

In March 2023, research from ACOSS found that seven in ten people on income support were eating less or reporting difficulty getting medicine or care.

We cannot leave people with the least behind.

Right now, 80% of people receive JobSeeker Payment for 12 months or more. In December 2022, Anglicare found that there were 15 Jobseekers competing for each entry-level role, and almost half of all vacancies require tertiary education or at least three years of experience. The longer people remain on income support, the harder it is to transition back into paid work.

But at \$50 a day, the current rate of Jobseeker isn't even enough to cover the essentials like weekly food and medicines let alone get a haircut, or buy a new shirt for a job interview. And with the Reserve Bank predicting that unemployment will rise by 150,000 next year, we must ensure income support payments cover basic costs.



We call on the Federal Government to substantially increase JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and related income support payments in the 2023 budget so as to not leave people in need behind.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Cassandra Goldie  
ACOSS CEO

And the undersigned:

**Politicians**

Alicia	Payne	Australian Labor Party	Federal Member for Canberra
Michelle	Ananda-Rajah	Australian Labor Party	Federal Member for Higgins
Louise	Miller-Frost	Australian Labor Party	Federal Member for Boothby
Kate	Thwaites	Australian Labor Party	Federal Member for Jagajaga
Bridget	Archer MP	Liberal Party	Federal Member for Bass
David	Pocock	Independent	Senator for ACT
Kate	Chaney	Independent	Federal Member for Curtin
Helen	Haines	Independent	Federal Member for Indi
Zoe	Daniel	Independent	Federal Member for Goldstein
Monique	Ryan	Independent	Federal Member for Kooyong
Zali	Steggall	Independent	Federal Member for Warringah
Kylea	Tink	Independent	Federal Member for North Sydney
Dr Sophie	Scamps	Independent	Federal Member for Mackellar
Allegra	Spender	Independent	Federal Member for Wentworth
Jacqui	Lambie	Jacqui Lambie Network	Senator for Tasmania
Lidia	Thorpe	Independent	Senator for Victoria
Andrew	Wilkie MP	Independent	Federal Member for Clarke
Janet	Rice	Australian Greens	Senator for Victoria
Elizabeth	Watson Brown	Australian Greens	Federal Member for Ryan



Adam	Bandt	Australian Greens	Federal Member for Melbourne/Leader of the Greens
Stephen	Bates	Australian Greens	Federal Member for Brisbane
Max	Chandler-Mather	Australian Greens	Federal Member for Griffith
Penny	Allman-Payne	Australian Greens	Senator for Queensland
Sarah	Hanson-Young	Australian Greens	Senator for South Australia
Jordon	Steele-John	Australian Greens	Senator for Western Australia
Barbara	Pocock	Australian Greens	Senator for South Australia
Larissa	Waters	Australian Greens	Senator for Queensland
Dorinda	Cox	Australian Greens	Senator for Western Australia
Mehreen	Faruqi	Australian Greens	Deputy Leader and Senator for NSW
David	Shoebridge	Australian Greens	Senator for NSW
Doug	Cameron	Former Senator	
Jenny	Macklin	Former Labor Minister, Chair of Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee	
Cathy	McGowan	Former MP for Indi	
Robert	Tickner AO	Former Minister in Hawke and Keating Governments	
Chris	Haviland	Former Federal Labor MP	

### **Economists**

Nicki	Hutley	Independent Consulting Economist	
Jeff	Borland	University of Melbourne	
Chris	Richardson	Rich Insight	
Richard	Denniss	The Australia institute	Executive director
Angela	Jackson	Impact Economics and Policy	Lead Economist
Ken	Henry AC	Former Secretary to the Australian Treasury	
Danielle	Wood	Grattan Institute	CEO
John	Hewson	ANU	Professor
Melinda	Cilento	CEDA	CEO
Emma	Dawson	Per Capita	Executive Director

### **Other prominent people**

Brian	Howe AO	Former Minister under Hawke and Keating governments	
Fiona	Stanley AO	Telethon Kids Institute	Patron and Research Professor
Megan	Davis	Pro-Vice Chancellor Indigenous UNSW	Professor
David	Thodey AO	Xero	Chair
Thomas	Mayor	Maritime Union of Australia (MUA)	National Indigenous Officer (also author and signatory to



the Uluru Statement from the Heart)

Fred	Chaney AO	Active Citizen	Advocate
Marie	Coleman AO PSM	Australian feminist, social activist, public servant and journalist	
Paul	Zahra	Australian Retailers Association	CEO
Sally	McManus	ACTU	Secretary
Michele	O'Neil	ACTU	President
Terese	Edwards	Single Mother Families Australia	CEO
Bishop Philip	Huggins	Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Director of Centre for Ecumenical Studies and President of the National Council of Churches in Australia	
Mohamed	Mohideen, OAM JP MASM	Islamic Council of Victoria Vice-President and Victorian Multicultural Commissioner	
Bishop Vincent	Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv,	Bishop of Parramatta and Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, and Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Chair	
Elizabeth	Broderick	EB&Co.	
David	Thodey AO	Xero	Chair
Patrick	McGorry AO	University of Melbourne and Orygen	Professor of Youth Mental Health
Cathy	McGowan AO	Former MP for Indi	
Kathryn	Greiner AO	Former Alderman of City of Sydney	
Craig	Foster AM	Retired soccer player, human rights activist and sports analyst.	
Renée	Leon	Former Secretary of Human Services	
Simon	Holmes à Court	Climate 200	Convenor
Michael	Raper	Community 21	
Eva	Cox AO	Women's Electoral Lobby	Founding member
Tim	Costello	Community Council for Australia	Chair
June	Oscar	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner	
Mick	Gooda	Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner	
Jane	Caro AM	Novelist, columnist, social commentator	
Wendy	Bacon	Journalist	
Julie	McCrossin AM	Veteran radio and television broadcaster	
Jenna	Price	Visiting fellow, Australian National University	Columnist, Academic
Kay	Cook	Swinburne University of Technology	Professor and Associate Dean of Research
Eileen	Baldry	UNSW Sydney	Professor of Criminology UNSW
Fran	Baum AO	Flinders University	Director, Southgate Institute of Health, Society & Equity



Julian	Disney	Law Faculty, University of New South Wales	Honorary Professor
Verity	Firth	UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Justice & Inclusion)
Miranda	Stewart	University of Melbourne Law School	Professor of Law
Dr Hannah	McGlade	Curtin Law School	Associate Professor
Carla	Treloar	Social Policy Research Centre UNSW	Scientia Professor
Nareen	Young	UTS Business School	Associate Dean (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement)
Toby	Freeman	University Of Adelaide	Senior Research Fellow
Meron	Lewis	The University of Queensland	Food cost and affordability researcher
Miranda	Stewart	University of Melbourne Law School	Professor of Law
Ben	Phillips	ANU	Associate Professor
Peter	Whiteford	Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University	Professor

### Community sector and philanthropic leaders

Nicole	Higgins	Royal Australian College of General Practice	President
Luke	Rycken	Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	CEO
Leanne	Ho	Economic Justice Australia	CEO
Liz	Cameron-Smith	The Foyer Foundation	CEO
Liz	Jacka	Dying With Dignity NSW	Director
Leisa	Sadler	Dress For Success Sydney	CEO
Monique	Earsman	Catholic Social Services Australia	Executive Director
Wendy	Farmer	Voices of the Valley	President
Chris	Cooper	Purpose	Head of Office, APAC
Elizabeth	Deveny	Consumers Health Forum of Australia	CEO
Kate	Colvin	Homelessness Australia	CEO
Dr Zena	Burgess	Australian Psychological Society	CEO
Mohammad	Al-Khafaji	FECCA	CEO
Stella	Avramopoulos	Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand	CEO
Kasy	Chambers	Anglicare Australia	Executive Director
Emma	Greenhalgh	National Shelter	CEO
Toby	O'Connor	St Vincent de Paul National Council of Australia	CEO
Mark	Pearce	Volunteering Australia	CEO



Nicole	Bartholomeusz	cohealth	Chief Executive
Marion	Bennett	Mission Australia	Executive, Practice, Evidence & Impact
Rachel	Ball	Reichstein Foundation	CEO
Jackie	Brady	Family & Relationship Services Australia	Executive Director
Antoinette	Braybrook	Djirra	CEO
Tracey	Burton	Uniting NSW.ACT	CEO
Georgie	Byron AM	Snow Foundation	CEO
Gill	Callister	Mind Australia	CEO
Michael	Chester	Uniting WA	Co-CEO
Brad	Chilcott	Welcoming Australia	Founder
Pattie	Chugg	Shelter Tasmania	CEO
Karen	Cox	Financial Rights Legal Centre	CEO
David	Crosbie	Community Council of Australia	CEO
Georgie	Dent	The Parenthood	Executive Director
Joel	Dignam	Better Renting	Executive Director
Julie	Edwards	Jesuit Social Services	CEO
Sandra	Elhelw-Wright	Settlement Council of Australia	CEO
Hayley	Foster	Full Stop Australia	CEO
Kate	Fox	The South Australian Financial Counsellors Association	Executive Officer
Carolyn	Frohmaster	Women With Disabilities Australia	CEO
Matt	Gardiner	54 reasons (part of the Save the Children Australia Group)	CEO
Rebecca	Glenn	Centre for Women's Economic Safety	CEO
Jennie	Gray	Women's Legal Service WA	CEO
David	Crosbie	Community Council of Australia	CEO
Tony	Nicholson	VincentCare	Board Chair
Claerwen	Little	UnitingCare Australia	National Director
Antonella	Segre	ADHD WA	CEO
Fiona	Guthrie	Financial Counselling Australia	CEO
Carolyn	Hodge	People With Disability Australia (PWDA)	Deputy CEO
Fiona	Hunt	Basic Rights Qld	CEO
Edwina	MacDonald	ACOSS	Deputy CEO/ Director of Policy and Advocacy
Jonathon	Hunyor	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	CEO
Rebecca	Jury	Waratah Support Centre	CEO
Skye	Kakoschke-Moore	Children and Young People with Disability Australia	CEO



Kon	Karapanagiotidis OAM	Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	CEO
Glen	Klatovsky	Climate Action Network Australia	CEO
Tim	Leach	Community Legal Centres Australia	CEO
Yumi	Lee	Older Women's Network NSW	CEO
Lucy	Manne	350.org Australia	CEO
Bill	Mithen	Give Where You Live Foundation	CEO
Ram	Neupane	Settlement Services International	Acting CEO
Kelly	O'Shanassy	Australian Conservation Foundation	CEO
Chris	Povey	Justice Connect	CEO
Claire	Robbs	Life Without Barriers	CEO
Luke	Rycken	Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	CEO
Patricia	Turner	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation	CEO
Karen	van Woudenberg	Blue Mountains Family Support Services Inc. ta Thrive Services	CEO
Hang	Vo	Sacred Heart Mission	CEO
Kylie	Ward	Australian College of Nursing	CEO
Sally	Watson	Shelter Housing Action Cairns Association Incorporated	CEO
Janine	Wood	No Limits Perth	CEO / Chairperson
Peta	Wootton	Fremantle Women's Health Centre	CEO
Sebastian	Zagarella	People with Disability Australia	CEO
Nicole	Hornsby	Baptist Care Australia	Executive Director
Robert	Hunt	Dietitians Australia	CEO
Alison	McClelland AM	Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand	Chair (also former Commissioner of the Productivity Commission)
Travers	McLeod	Brotherhood of St Laurence	Executive Director
David	Morawetz	Social Justice Fund	Founder and Director
Lyn	Morgain	Oxfam Australia	Chief Executive
Kris	Newton	Mountains Community Resource Network	Manager
Dr Harry	Randhawa	Uniting Country Housing Ltd.	Chief Executive
Jill	Reichstein OAM	Reichstein Foundation	Chair
Mel	Rowe	Orana House Inc.	General Manager
Natalie	Sangalli	Housing Choices WA	General Manager
Tish	Sivagnanan	Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA)	National President
Terry	Slevin	Public Health Association of Australia	CEO



Diane	Smith-Gander AO	CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia)	National Chair
Lin	Hatfield Dodds	The Benevolent Society	CEO
Anna	Brown	Equality Australia	CEO
Helen	Szoke	Life Without Barriers	Non-executive director
Nick	Tebbey	Relationships Australia	National Executive Officer
Joanne	Toohey	Afford	CEO
Jason	Trethowan	headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation	CEO
Kate	Wheller	Community Information & Support Victoria	Executive Officer
Toni	Wren	Anti-Poverty Week	Executive Director
Fiona	York	Housing for the Aged Action Group	Executive Officer
Grace	Hollin	Koya Aboriginal Corporation	Executive Manager - Operations
Lorraine	Dupree	Queensland Youth Housing Coalition	Executive Director
Andrew	D'Arcy	St Kilda Community Housing Ltd.	CEO
Justine	Colyer	Rise Network	CEO
Kate	Cotter	Resilient Building Council	CEO
Tanya	Corrie	Juno	CEO
Bryanna	Connell	Barwon Community Legal Service	CEO
Tom	Conley	Not-for-Profit & Charity Community Consultants (NFPPCC) and Diverse Communities and Social Services (DCSS) LGBTIQ+ & Indigenous Social Enterprise Charity	Managing Director & CEO
Narelle	Clay	Southern Youth and Family Services	CEO
Kim	Brooklyn	Parkerville Children and Youth Care	CEO
Cherie	Brandon	Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre	Acting Manager
Matt	Cairns	Uniting Vic Tas	Senior Manager
Elizabeth	Ebeling	Bright Green Lizard	Manager
Wendy	Farmer	Voices of the Valley	President
Michelle	Greenwood	Invisible Illnesses Inc	Founder
Anthony	Petropiccolo	Centrecare Inc.	CEO
Nick	Koop	Vivid recruitment	Director
Kristy	Walters	Community Power Agency	Director
Gemma	Killen	ACTCOSS	Interim CEO





Charlie	Burton	TASCOSS	Acting CEO
Louise	Giolitto	WACOSS	CEO
Joanna	Quilty	NCOSS	CEO
Ross	Womersley	SACOSS	CEO
Aimee	McVeigh	QCOSS	CEO
Sarah	Holder	NT Council of Social Service	Acting CEO
Emma	King	Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)	CEO

**Full list of signatories, in alphabetical order:**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
Diane	Adair
Mohammad	Al-Khafaji
Penny	Allman-Payne
Michelle	Ananda-Rajah
Rafael	Aquino
Bridget	Archer
Stella	Avramopoulos
Luke	Bacon
Wendy	Bacon
Van	Badham
Eileen	Baldry
Rachel	Ball
Adam	Bandt
Inez	Baranay
Cheryl	Barry
Nicole	Bartholomeusz
Lyndsay	Bassett
Stephen	Bates
Fran	Baum AO
Marion	Bennett
Daniel	Berg
Danielle	Black
Jeff	Borland
Michelle	Bradshaw
Jackie	Brady
Cherie	Brandon
Antoinette	Braybrook
Elizabeth	Broderick



Kim	Brooklyn
Anna	Brown
Lucy	Brown
Riley	Buchanan
Margaret	Buckham
Zena	Burgess
Charlie	Burton
Tracey	Burton
David	Bushell
Georgie	Byron AM
Matt	Cairns
Gill	Callister
Doug	Cameron
Helen	Cameron
Liz	Cameron-Smith
Jennifer	Campbell
Nicholas	Canu
Jane	Caro AM
Josh	Carrapiett
Matthew	Carter
Kasy	Chambers
Max	Chandler-Mather
Fred	Chaney
Kate	Chaney
Michael	Chester
Brad	Chilcott
Centre for Excellence Child and Family Welfare	
Pattie	Chugg
Melinda	Cilento
Narelle	Clay
Helen	Clemens
Robyn	Clough
Caitlin	Coleman
Marie	Coleman AO PSM
Sarah	Colgan
Nick	Collins
Kate	Colvin
Justine	Colyer
Tom	Conley (JP, MAICD, AMICDA)
Bryanna	Connell



Justine	Connelly
Kay	Cook
Chris	Cooper
Sophie	Corbett
Tanya	Corrie
Tim	Costello
Kate	Cotter
Alastair	Couche
Brett	Cowan
Karen	Cox
Dorinda	Cox
Eva	Cox AO
Adele	Craven
David	Crosbie
Peter	Cunningham
Andrew	D'Arcy
Yolanda	Dasgupta
Emma	Dawson
Giancarlo	de Vera
Richard	Denniss
Georgie	Dent
Clare	Deo
Elizabeth	Deveny
Joel	Dignam
Julian	Disney
Michelle	Dobson
Keiran	Dowling
Vanessa	D'Souza
Lorraine	Dupree
Elizabeth	Ebeling
Terese	Edwards
Julie	Edwards
Sandra	Elhelw-Wright
Sandra	F.Bloomer
John	Falzon
Wendy	Farmer
Mehreen	Faruqi
Jana	Favero
Crystal	Fernandes
Kate	Finch



Verity	Firth
Jarrold	Fitch
Hayley	Foster
Craig	Foster AM
Kate	Fox
Grace	Franco
Toby	Freeman
Carolyn	Frohman
Matt	Gardiner
Victoria	Gee
Louise	Giolitto
Rebecca	Glenn
Shirley	Goder
Cassandra	Goldie
Mick	Gooda
Ruth	Gordon
Pat	Gould
Jennie	Gray
Sam	Grebert
Emma	Greenhalgh
Michelle	Greenwood
Kathryn	Greiner AO
Damon	Grimwood
Andrew	Grose
Fiona	Guthrie
Helen	Haines
Anna	Hall
Sarah	Hanson-Young
Margaret	Harris
Lin	Hatfield Dodds
Chris	Haviland
Jenny	Heenan
Ken	Henry
Philip	Henty
John	Hewson
Elsbeth	Hickey
Nicole	Higgins
Kendall	Hill
Leanne	Ho
Carolyn	Hodge



Bea	Hodges
Helen	Hodgetts
Sarah	Holder
Grace	Hollin
Simon	Holmes à Court
Nicole	Hornsby
Brian	Howe
Karen	Huang
Bishop Philip	Huggins
Fiona	Hunt
Robert	Hunt
Jonathon	Hunyor
Nicki	Hutley
Violet	Ifans-McDonald
Liz	Jacka
Angela	Jackson
Shirley	Jackson
Poppy	Johnston
Peter	Jones
Rebecca	Jury
Tony	Juss
Skye	Kakoschke-Moore
Kon	Karapanagiotidis OAM
Gemma	Killen
Jane	Keogh
Emma	King
Paul	King
Vikki	King
Alan	Kirkland
Glen	Klatovsky
Nick	Koop
Christopher	Kwong
Gianni	La Cava
May	Lam
Roz	Lambert
Jacqui	Lambie
Jacki	Lamont
Eliza	Larkin
Tim	Leach
Kate	Leaney



Yumi	Lee
Renee	Leon
Meron	Lewis
Nerida	Lithgow
Claerwen	Little
Pauline	Logan
Bishop Vincent	Long Van Nguyen
Brianna	Luscombe
Rob	Mac
Edwina	MacDonald
Jenny	Macklin
Jo	MacLean
Melissa	Malone
Lucy	Manne
Thomas	Mayor
Don	McArthur
Alison	McClelland AM
Julie	McCrossin AM
Dr Hannah	McGlade
Patrick	McGorry
Cathy	McGowan
Kim	McGrath
Margaret	McKenzie
Sarah	McKenzie
Rob	McLeod
Travers	McLeod
Sally	McManus
Aimee	McVeigh
Shane	Miles
Karen	Millar
Jessica	Miller
Terry	Miller
Louise	Miller-Frost
Bill	Mithen
Mohamed	Mohideen, OAM
Mark	Molloy
Tom	Molomby
David	Morawetz
Lyn	Morgain
Catherine	Morris



Harkiran	Narulla
Chris	Nash
Anneke	Nehring
Ram	Neupane
Kris	Newton
Dylan	Nichols
Tony	Nicholson
Cherie	Nielsen
Toby	O'Connor
Michele	O'Neil
Angeline	O'Neill
Patrick	O'Rourke
June	Oscar
Kelly	O'Shanassy
Alicia	Payne
Alicia	Payne
Simon	Payne
Mark	Pearce
Fiona	Pearman
Jan	Pearse
Anthony	Petropiccolo
Ben	Phillips
David	Pocock
Barbara	Pocock
Andrew	Podger
A R	Polack
Elenie	Poulos
Chris	Povey
Jenna	Price
Joanna	Quilty
David	Quinn
Phillip	Quirk
Dr Harry	Randhawa
Michael	Raper
Jill	Reichstein OAM
Janet	Rice
Bethany	Richards
Chris	Richardson
Jay	Ridley
Claire	Robbs



Leanne	Roberts
Lucille	Rogers
Mr C	Roussell
Mel	Rowe
Virginia	Ruchel
Michael	Ruyg
Monique	Ryan
Luke	Rycken
Natalie	Sangalli
Leisa	Sadler
Sophie	Scamps
Bradley	Scott
Antonella	Segre
Jethro	Sercombe
Audrey	Shamier
Marie	Sheedy
David	Shoebridge
Paul	Simkin
Andrea	Simmons
Kate	Simpson
Tish	Sivagnanan
Terry	Slevin
Rose	Smart
Melita	Smilovic
John	Smith
Diane	Smith-Gander AO
Allegra	Spender
Fiona	Stanley
Robin	Steel
Jordon	Steele-John
Zali	Steggall MP
Miranda	Stewart
Sean	Sullivan
Mary	Symes
Dominic	Szeker
Helen	Szoke
John	Taylor
Nick	Tebbey
David	Thodey AO
Gerard	Thomas





Lidia	Thorpe
John	Thwaites
Kate	Thwaites
Robert	Tickner AO
Kylea	Tink
Lisa	Tippett
Karen	Tomlinson
Joanne	Toohy
Carla	Treloar
Jason	Trethowan
Patricia	Turner
Karen	van Woudenberg
David	Velasquez
Rebecca	Vercoe
Hang	Vo
Cam	Walker
Jasmine	Walker
Karen	Wallace
Kristy	Walters
Kylie	Ward
Shaun	Warnock
Larissa	Waters
Sally	Watson
Gillian	Weeks
Kate	Wheller
Peter	Whiteford
Andrew	Wilkie
Darron	Wolf
Ross	Womersley
Danielle	Wood
Janine	Wood
Jordan	Wood
Ryan	Woolcott
Peta	Wootton
Toni	Wren
Jaime	Yallup Farrant
Ben	Yates
Fiona	York
Prof Nareen	Young
Sebastian	Zagarella



Paul

Zahra