



FAST FACTS

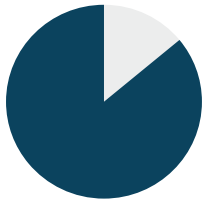
Australians Care About Poverty



anti-poverty week

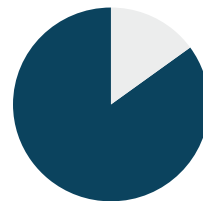
act on poverty

Australians are sensitive and sympathetic to people experiencing poverty and support government action to reduce it. A 2018 surveyⁱ for **Anglicare Australia** found very high levels of compassion towards people experiencing poverty, and that most believe people should not experience poverty in Australia. It found:



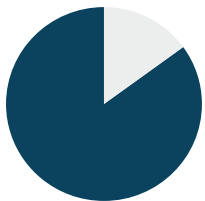
86%

agreed that nobody deserves to live in poverty



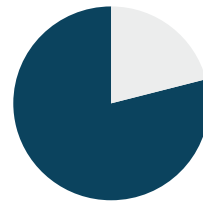
85%

agreed that nobody who works full-time should live in poverty



85%

agreed that Australia should be a country that looks after those in need



79%

agreed that people can experience poverty through no fault of their own

Just 11% agreed that those who rely on government support deserve to live in poverty.
70% rejected the statement.

People living in rural and regional areas were even more sympathetic than those in metropolitan locations, for example, a significantly higher proportion of people in rural areas (64%) said that there are no differences between them and those experiencing poverty (55% metro).

Other surveysⁱⁱ in 2018 found similar results:

92%

agreed with the statement,

"In Australia, no one should go without basic essentials like food, healthcare, transport and power."

How widespread is poverty?

The Anglicare research found that 16% of respondents couldn't afford a basic necessity in the last 12 months – this is higher than the 13.2% in poverty according to ACOSS-UNSW **Poverty in Australia 2018** researchⁱⁱⁱ based on poverty as 50% median income. This may explain why there is widespread identification and empathy - experiences of poverty are more common than official statistics.

Many of us become unemployed, ill or disabled and separate from our partner at some time during our working lives. 70 percent of households had at least one person who needed to receive income support (not age pension or family payments) between 2001-2015.^{iv} If the payment is too low, people can fall into poverty and find it hard to escape without other supports.

Find out more at www.antipovertyweek.org.au



Australians think Government has an important role to play to reduce poverty

A 2018 Essential poll^v found that:

77%

77% agreed with the statement, "The Government's has a responsibility to ensure every Australian has enough money to put a roof over their head and food on their table."

64%

64% supported the statement, "I support an increase in Newstart, the benefit paid to unemployed people, as it has not been increased in real terms for 24 years."

Polling for The Australia Institute in 2018^{vi} found:

64%

64% of people want more public spending funded by tax revenue and less inequality. Only 11% want lower taxes and less public spending.

The Per Capita Annual Tax Survey^{vii} conducted in 2019 found:

53.5%

A majority of respondents (53.5%) support an increase in spending on social security, a significant shift in support for more government spending on pensions and other income support measures than was recorded in the early years of this decade, when the number sat around 40%.

Produced by Anti-Poverty Week as part of its **Fast Facts** series. Data correct as of 22 July 2019.

For more, see our website at www.antipovertyweek.org.au

^vNationally representative sample of 1,236 Australians conducted by Ipsos, [Anglicare Australia State of the Family 2018](#)

Link to [Anglicare Australia media release, Report shows Australians want an end to poverty](#)

^{vi}<https://www.essentialvision.com.au/statements-about-newstart>

^{vii}Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS. 13.2% is based on a poverty line of 50% of median income.

^{viii}[The welfare state touches the lives of many more Australians than is commonly thought](#) Professor Peter Whiteford analysed recent Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) data and found

that "around 70 per cent of working-age households include someone who received an income support payment at some point between 2001 and 2015" (not including Age Pensions or any family payments). Citing HILDA data 2001-2010, he says "over 9 years, 22 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women were dismissed from their job. Around 40 per cent of the Australian population experience a serious personal injury or illness each year over a 10 year period, and nearly 70 per cent of men and 64 per cent of women experience serious injury or illness to a close relative or family member over a 10 year period."

^{ix}<https://www.essentialvision.com.au/statements-about-newstart>

^x[Small Government has small support](#), The Australia Institute, April 2018.

^{xi}[Per Capita 2019 Tax Survey](#), March 2019.