



Local Government Participation in Anti-Poverty Week

Partnering with your local government and council members is a great way to get involved in Anti-Poverty Week. There have been many thought-provoking and valuable activities held in the past that may inspire you to make a difference in your community.

Raise the Rate for Newstart unemployment payments

This year we have invited **Raise the Rate** to join in Anti-Poverty Week. You can encourage your local government to pass a motion to endorse the ACOSS Raise the Rate campaign to increase the rate of Newstart payments for unemployed people by \$75. This campaign has already garnered the support from 29 councils and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). Contact Raise the Rate for more details including the number of residents who rely on Newstart in your LGA and the economic boost it would provide to your community!

Thinking outside of the box...

We encourage activities of any size as long as they have a focus on poverty and encourage community action! Involvement from local government can take shape in so many forms – activities can range from morning teas, food drives, film screenings or gathering the community together for a fundraiser.

Discussion panels, seminars and workshops are a fantastic way to gather local perspectives and encourage your community to think and work together. This could be an opportunity to raise awareness on poverty issues hardships specific to your area whether it be housing, inequalities in education or employment levels. Take a look at our Fast Facts on our website for information on poverty www.antipovertyweek.org.au

Some activities in the past include:

Yarra City Council held a ‘**War on Wage Theft**’ discussion panel to reflect on the topic of wage theft as a form of poverty and hardship. The panel invited expert work’s rights advocates and those with lived experience on the issue to talk about the impacts of wage theft as a contributor to poverty, not only on the individual but as a greater cost to the community.

Canterbury City Council worked together with multiple service providers in the area to launch the **Canterbury Bankstown Service Mapping** and the **Pathways to Employment Report** to help people discover what employment services are available and close to them. This workshop educated the public and service providers on the new system and uplifted individuals.

Wollongong City Council hosted a ‘**Poverty in Childhood Forum**’ where the Lord Mayor and the Wollongong City Young Citizen of the Year addressed issues of poverty in families to the community.



Moreland City Council invited residents, business owners and community leaders to **'A Home in Moreland'**, an event to share experiences on homelessness to encourage the community to find ways to combat the housing crisis.

Cumberland Council initiated the **'Gifted'** clothing drive where the community could donate clothing to women experiencing disadvantage. The council was able to designate multiple collection points and work together with local organisations.

In partnership with La Trobe University, **Mildura Rural Council** held a **'Working to End Poverty – What Will it Take'** seminar to discuss employment issues and viable pathways out of poverty. This event brought together students, residents and experts to share lived experiences and encouraged public discussion.

Marrickville Council ran a series of workshops **'Climate Change Prevention Tips for Low Income Households'** and **smoothie making classes** to educate families and residents on local healthy foods and ways to improve nutrition on a budget.

Glenorchy City Council was able to host a **'Community Treasures'** breakfast for the community to share a meal with volunteers and take an **'Op Shop Walking Tour'** to encourage others to donate clothing and unused goods to those in need.