



Activities during Anti-Poverty Week 2019 that focused on Newstart – increasing understanding and taking action collectively

(see also [APW 2019 Media Summary](#)).

**Join us for an Anti-Poverty Week Forum
It's time to...**

RAISE THE RATE

10.30am – 12.30pm | Fri 18 Oct 2019

Kurilpa Hall, 174 Boundary Street, West End Q 4101

Newstart is not working! #RaiseTheRate



MICAH PROJECTS



Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community

Getting the message out that increasing Newstart is the most effective solution to reducing poverty in Australia

- ✓ Anti-Poverty Week publishes [Poverty and Newstart Fast Fact](#), July 2019.
- ✓ **Two national research reports released:** [Foodbank's 2019 Hunger Report](#) on Sunday 13th October and [Anglicare Australia's 2019 Jobs Availability Snapshot](#) on Wednesday 16th (both with State/Territory data break downs and recommendations including Raise the Rate of Newstart.)
- ✓ One major **State poverty research report** was released: '[Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW](#)' report undertaken by NCOSS in conjunction with the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM). Includes interactive maps and recommendation to raise the rate of Newstart as a solution to poverty and disadvantage in NSW.

Reaching out to Influencers and Decision-Makers – action by APW secretariat

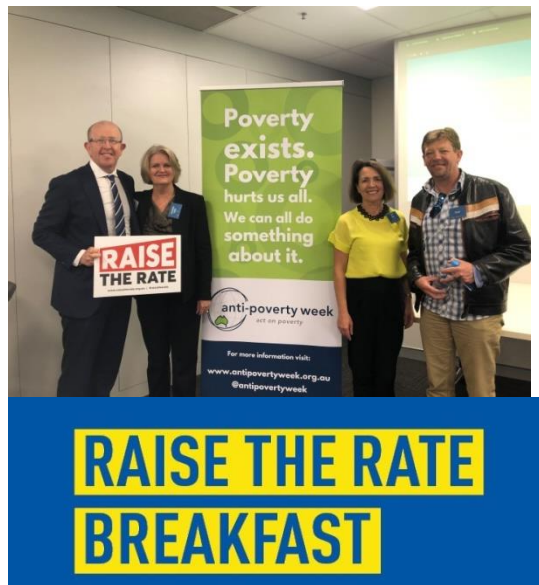
- ✓ [Submission #25 to Senate Inquiry into Adequacy of Newstart](#), 13 September.
- ✓ Toni Wren, ED Anti-Poverty Week met with **Greens Senator** Siewert, 17 September.
- ✓ Email letter from APW Co Chairs to all **Federal MPs and Senators**, 27 September, including link to all Fast Facts and “In 2019 we are encouraging our network to support the **Raise the Rate** campaign to increase unemployment payments as part of our focus on promoting solutions to poverty in Australia.” >80% open rate.
- ✓ NSW APW Briefing to **NSW MPs** including Premier, Deputy Premier and ALP MPs Penny Sharpe, Marjorie O'Neill and Greens MP David Shoebridge, 9 October.
- ✓ APW Briefing emailed to all **Federal MPs and Senators**, including message from Co Chairs, list of events, copy of all Fast Facts and thank you to sponsors, 11 October. >80% open rate.
- ✓ Toni Wren, “A \$65 increase in Newstart is both right and smart”, [SMH print \(online 14/10\)](#) plus The Age, Brisbane Times, 15 October.
- ✓ Toni Wren, ED Anti-Poverty Week met with Liberal MPs Russell Broadbent and Bridget Archer and ALP Shadow Social Services Minister Linda Burney MP plus adviser to Leader of the Opposition during APW – all meetings included focus on need to increase Newstart as well as different aspects of poverty.

Taking action collectively to end poverty

NGOs take action to increase Newstart

Overall the focus was very positively received: “We liked the call to action this year. Focused call to actions are great.”

- ✓ **St Vincent de Paul Canberra/Goulburn** hosted a **Raise the Rate breakfast** for CEOs who had taken part in their Canberra CEO Sleepout to brief them on the Newstart campaign. Speakers included ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie and a Canberra resident with lived experience as well as Stephen Byron, Managing Director, Canberra Airport



- ✓ **Berry St** advocacy on Raise the Rate (>11,000 signatures for petition/email PM) plus CEO Michael Perusco [Linked In article](#)
- ✓ **Financial Counselling Australia**, [FCA calls on Government to Raise the Rate during Anti-Poverty Week](#), media release 15/10/19.
- ✓ **Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand**, [A new start is not possible for many older women](#), media release 15/10/19
- ✓ 4 NGO leaders have **Opinion pieces published** urging an increase in Newstart:
 - 14 October Bev Jowle, The West Australian (see APW Media Summary 2019).
 - 16/10/19 Peter Sandeman, [Adelaide Advertiser](#), (also online, Adelaide Now & Perth Now)
 - 16/10 Dr Chris Jones, [Tasmanian Advocate](#)
 - 17/10 Penny Dakin, [Canberra Times](#) (reproduced [here](#) to avoid paywall)

- ✓ **Addison Road, Marrickville, NSW, renamed to **Raise the Rate** road.**



- ✓ [Many Voices – 1 Message – **Raise the Rate**](#) on Thursday 17th hosted by The Neighbourhood Hub, Mackay, QLD included sausage sizzle, info and support.
- ✓ **Mission Australia**, [CEO blog APW and Newstart 14/10/19](#) plus CEO spoke at A Future Without Poverty for Young People event, Sydney 14/10/19 plus multiple regional events in NSW and some Staff Letters to the Editor published in The Northern Star Lismore, Braidwood Times, Yass Tribune and The Goulburn Post in NSW; the [Hobart Mercury](#) in Tasmania and the Gold Coast Bulletin in Queensland.
- ✓
- ✓ **Uniting Vic/Tas** had a team running in the Melbourne Marathon with a focus on ending poverty plus advocacy on Raise the Rate.
- ✓ Release of [Northern Territory Poverty Statement](#) 16/10/19 by NTCOSS, Jesuit Social Services, St Vincent de Paul Society and Central Aboriginal Land Council which called for an increase to Newstart.
- ✓ [Perth Anti-Poverty Network held a Raise the Rate rally](#) including a speaker from the Australian Unemployed Workers' Union.
- ✓ [Port Phillip Community Group, Victoria](#) Raise the Rate community event including lunch, speakers and activities.
- ✓ [Poverty in the Shadows](#) A series of stories from the real lives of the many women who face poverty and homelessness (including difficulty living on Newstart) displayed in Newcastle and Wallsend Public Libraries during Anti-Poverty Week.

- ✓ **Shepparton Family Care**, VIC hosted a community sausage sizzle on Thursday 17th but only served half a sausage to acknowledge the inadequacy of Newstart payments and need to **Raise the Rate**.



- ✓ Uniting Vic.Tas, "[It's time to raise the rate this Anti-Poverty Week](#)" media release 11/10/19. Also urged people to write to their MP or share their Newstart story with link to Raise the Rate.
- ✓ **Newstart Nannas** protest outside Federal Parliament House.



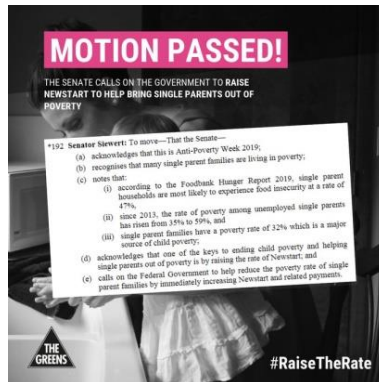
Anti-Poverty Week
@AntiPovertyWeek

The [#NewstartNannas](#) making some noise today outside of Parliament House to [#RaisetheRate](#). Wendy is one of Nannas who is taking a stand! [#APW2019](#)
[#AntiPovertyWeek](#)



Politicians take action to increase Newstart

- ✓ Numerous Motions to increase Newstart passed in the **Senate** during APW.



- ✓ [Federal Shadow Ministers release video](#) on poverty on Facebook, 16 October.
- ✓ Linda Burney MP Shadow Minister for Social Services [Matter of Public Importance in the House of Representatives 17 October](#), 9 Federal MPs from 2 political parties.
- ✓ [Senate debate on poverty on 17 October](#) , 6 Senators from 3 political parties.
- ✓ Alicia Payne MP, Federal Member for Canberra, makes video including need to raise the rate.
- ✓ Local Federal MP Sharon Claydon speaks at the [Poverty in the Hunter, We all know someone worse off](#) rally in Newcastle, 18 October.
- ✓ 18/10/19 [QLD Deputy Premier supports increasing Newstart](#) at APW **Raise the Rate** event—first time Queensland Government has publicly supported Raise the Rate.
- ✓ [NSW Deputy Premier announces Federal Government should reconsider opposition to increasing Newstart](#) on 24 October at NCOS Anti-Poverty Week event NCOS [Putting regional needs on the map](#), Sydney 24 October.
- ✓ 8 November, [Tasmanian Premier comes out in support of Newstart increase](#).



Alicia Payne MP  @AliciaPayneMP · Oct 21

I made this video with @OzHarvestACT and @VinniesACT during @AntiPovertyWeek last week. Our community orgs do an incredible job but ultimately we need to increase Newstart if we are going to address poverty in Australia. #auspol



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89



Newstart Fact Sheet

Raise the Rate Breakfast & Panel Discussion



6000 people in the ACT are receiving Newstart



Reserve Bank Governor, Phillip Lowe, suggests that an increase would be **“good for economy”**



55% of the people on Newstart live under the poverty line.



There is just **ONE** job available for every eight people looking for paid work or more hours.



Newstart is just **\$282pw** including the energy supplement. A single unemployed person needs \$434pw to cover the cost of basics.



A **\$75pw** increase to allowances would lift the ACT economy by 31m in the first year alone according to Deloitte Access Economics.



For **25 years**, Newstart has not been increased in real terms, while living costs for people on low incomes have gone through the roof.



12,000 new jobs added and **\$3.3 billion** worth of extra spending by consumers would be a result of raising the rate according to Deloitte Access Economics.



Of **69,000** rental properties surveyed by Anglicare Australia, just two properties Australia-wide were affordable for a single person receiving Newstart.



There are increasing numbers of people on Newstart with disabilities and over **55** years old — the majority of long-term unemployed are now mature-age job seekers.



A decade ago the OECD warned that Newstart was low enough to raise “issues about its effectiveness in providing sufficient support for those experiencing a job loss, or enabling someone to look for a suitable job”.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- **Join** the Raise the Rate supporter list <https://raisetherate.org.au>
- **Write** to your MPs and Senators.
- **Organise** a meeting with MPs and/or Senators to discuss the campaign. You could even consider supporting a person on Newstart to share their story with a politician.
- **Talk** to your family, friends and colleagues about the Raise the Rate campaign, and encourage them to also take action.
- **Share** your story: <https://raisetherate.vinnies.org.au/share-your-story>

Have you ever been on Newstart or Youth Allowance or do you know someone who has? Your story has the power to change hearts and minds. And when you share your story, it lifts the stigma and makes it easier for others to share their experiences.

Information taken from ACOSS Raise the Rate campaign



Vinnies