



State/Territory Report, APW 2019

See also [Highlights of APW 2019](#) and associated reports, including

[APW 2019: Select Media Coverage](#)

[APW 2019 activities related to increasing Newstart](#)

APW 2019: activities not related to Newstart:

- [Increasing understanding of poverty](#)
- [Actions to reduce poverty](#).

[APW 2019 MP and Senator Briefing](#), 11/10/19.

[APW 2019-21 Strategic Direction](#)

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Australian Capital Territory – Co-Chairs, Susan Helyar, CEO of ACT Council of Social Service and Mark Duggan, Regional Manager, Australian Red Cross - ACT/SE NSW.

Other organisations who contributed to planning Anti-Poverty Week activities in 2019 included: ACT Multicultural Advisory Council, Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT, ANU Student's Association, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Union of Unemployed Workers, Belconnen Community Service, Capital Health Network, Carers ACT, Cancer Council ACT, CIT Students' Association, Directions Health Services, GIVIT, Institute for Child Protection Studies, Legal Aid ACT, Marymead, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service, OzHarvest, St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, Sunnyfield Disability Services, The Hope Project, The Salvation Army - ACT & South NSW Division, Toora Women, Woden Community Service, Women's Centre for Health Matters, YWCA Canberra.

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group:

- The theme in 2019 was “Together Preventing Tipping Points into Poverty” building from 2018 APW video Pathways out of Poverty that profiled four people in Canberra, and three organisations, who had experiences of creating pathways out of poverty. [Watch the videos here.](#)
- Encouraged all Canberrans to contact their MPs and senators to say they support raising the rate of Newstart, Youth Allowance, Sickness Allowance and other similar payments.
- See [ACTCOSS Media Release 11/10/19](#)

Select events and advocacy:

- **St Vincent de Paul Canberra/Goulburn** hosted a **breakfast for CEOs** on Monday 15th to brief them on the Raise the Rate campaign. Speakers include ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie and a Canberra resident with lived experience.
- The **Governor General** and Mrs Hurley hosted an afternoon tea at Government House Canberra to announce the winners of the 5th **Pens against Poverty** writing competition for ACT and Southern NSW students in grades 3-10.
- GIVIT produced a podcast series titled Unlikely. Caroline Odgers from GIVIT said, “We produced this series with our community partners to raise awareness of real stories from inspiring Canberrans, their tipping points into poverty and their pathway to a better life.” [Listen to the series here.](#)
- Julian Corner from The LankellyChase Foundation in the UK gave the ACT Anti-Poverty Week keynote address titled **Evidence for (and against) systems change: addressing severe and multiple disadvantage**. This event was hosted by ACTCOSS in partnership with the University of New South Wales. Find out about the [keynote address here.](#)
- **Homelessness: We All Own It. Art Exhibition** - 10-17 Oct, Local artist, Caroline Ambrus and supporting partner organisations – the Canberra City Uniting Church Early Morning Centre and [Communities@Work](#)
- **The Big Issue: A Pathway From Poverty exhibition** - 15 Oct in Woden Town Centre. Learn about the Big Issue and how it has changed vendors' lives through supplementary income, skill development and social inclusion. Hear their stories and get to know your local vendor.

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

- **Community Services #1 Anti-Poverty Week Lunch** in Narrabundah - 15 Oct -Lunch provided at 66 cents per person to engage with the lived realities of many Aussies living in poverty.
- The [Canberra Homeless Connect](#) event on 17 Oct offered a one-stop-shop that brings much needed services and care to everyone from rough sleepers to couch surfers. Guests will receive free haircuts, shoes, dental and medical checks, sessions with housing agencies and more. canberrahomelessconnect@gmail.com
- **YWCA Lanyon Pantry Dash** - 17 Oct have invited MLAs to help out in the kitchen and to meet and mingle with Lanyon Food Hub members. A recipe book which includes the recipes that members have shared over the past 12 months will be available for people to take home. canberra@ywca-canberra.org.au
- **Student Poverty event at ANU** - 17 Oct - ANUSA and Unions ACT will highlight wage theft and food insecurity for students, and direct tertiary students to services, support and the Raise the Rate campaign.
- **Bike Library Launch** - 18 Oct -The bike library aims to provide residents from a disadvantaged background in west Gungahlin access to free bike hire. GIVIT – Goods for Good Causes collaborated with Northside Community Service (bike library management), Margaret Hendry School (management and library location) and Calwell High School (provide refurbished bikes).
- Alicia Payne MP, Federal Member for Canberra, makes APW [video](#) including need to raise the rate, 21/10/19.
- ACT Liberal MP ACT APW and OzHarvest video

Select ACT Media coverage:

- 11/10/19 picture and large article [Saved from the street and telling her story](#), Canberra Times, based on Givit APW podcast focusing on people who have left poverty. Also featured on ABC RN Life Matters 17/10/19.
- 13/10/19 AAP story based on APW Media Alert “[Anti-Poverty Week to focus on Newstart](#),” [The Canberra Times](#).
- 14/10 ACT APW Co-Chairs have 13 minute interview on local ABC radio, 7.15-7.30am.
- 17/10 Penny Dakin, [Canberra Times](#) (reproduced [here](#) to avoid paywall)
- 17/10/19 “[The Newstart payment is far too low](#)” Editorial and David Pope editorial cartoon, Canberra Times.
- 20/10/19, ABC TV News 7pm News, Canberra.
- Community radio station 2XX had several programs that included interviews with community leaders talking about what works to prevent, intervene and recover from poverty.

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in ACT between 13-19 October only:

	ACT
AM Radio	21
FM Radio	17
TV	10

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

[Saved from the street and telling her story](#), Canberra Times, 11/10/19



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

New South Wales – Co-Chairs Joanna Quilty, CEO NCOSS and Nada Nasser, State Director Mission Australia NSW.

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group:

- Regional and rural poverty
- Young people

Select Events and advocacy:

- **Mission Australia, Youth Action and NCOSS** hosted a forum on a [Future Without Poverty for Young People](#)
- The **Salvation Army** hosted a [Moneycare Day Breakfast and Briefing](#) on people experiencing financial vulnerability – CEOs Anna Bligh (Australian Banking Association, David Locke (Australian Financial Complaints Authority) and Karen Cox (Financial Rights Legal Centre NSW) spoke and it was facilitated by Ross Gittins.
- [St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Rosalie Rendu Forum](#), this year on mental health and well-being
- [National Older Women's Network](#) hosted their bi-annual National Conference 'A Place to Call Home' in Sydney. Speakers including Jane Caro, Susan Ryan AO and Dame Quentin Bryce.
- Parliament House, [Putting regional needs on the map](#) (speakers included CWA and Mayors and leaders from NSW regional towns) and launch of 'Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW' report undertaken by NCOSS in conjunction with the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)- note event took place 24/10/19.
- Energy Water Ombudsman NSW hosted an [Anti-Poverty Week Forum in Canley Vale](#) with community and government workers, financial counsellors and others assisting low income and vulnerable consumers on 15/10.
- [Canterbury Bankstown Council Anti-Poverty event](#) with local NGOs 15/10 Lakemba and 17/10 Bankstown.
- Marrickville Addison Road, renamed to **Raise the Rate** road.
- Shoalhaven: [Shoalhaven community event](#) at local park.
- Dubbo: [Service Provider Information Event](#), number of local service providers such as Centrelink, financial counsellors etc were available to provide information regarding support, and tips on savings. Organised by Mission Australia.
- Goulburn: [Poverty is No Picnic in the Park](#) Organised by Mission Australia.
- Newcastle: [Poverty in the Shadows](#) A series of stories from the real lives of women who face poverty and homelessness displayed in Newcastle and Wallsend Public Libraries during Anti-Poverty Week. Hunter Workers, [Poverty in the Hunter. We all know someone worse off](#) rally
- Wagga Wagga: [Neighbourhood Nibbles](#) in a community centre - a free lunch event aimed at bringing the community together.
- Wyong: [Anti-Poverty Action](#), St Vincent de Paul Wyong Regional Office alongside external organisations came together to raise awareness and offer assistance to the community affected by poverty.

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Select NSW media:

- 13/10/19 AAP story based on APW Media Alert "[Anti-Poverty Week to focus on Newstart](#)". [Channel 7 Prime local Wollongong](#)
- 14/10/19 interview ABC Radio Sydney plus 12 regional ABC stations in NSW: St Vincent de Paul is calling on the [Federal] Government to raise Newstart allowance by at least \$75 weekly.
- 15/10/19 Toni Wren, [SMH print \(online 14/10\)](#) plus The Age, Brisbane Times.
- 16/10/19 Ross Gittins, [SMH print \(online 15 October\)](#) also The Age.
- ABC TV News 7pm Sydney and Canberra 20 October featured a Newstart case study of older woman Bernadette from Northern NSW plus poverty simulation at University of Adelaide and concerns about high rates of suicide and mental health problems in regional areas affected by poverty –story introduced as understanding “hidden poverty” as opposed to people who are homeless and visible on our streets.
- Salvation Army Moneycare events in [Moree](#) and Dubbo NSW and covered by regional FM Radio: hit 91.9 Bendigo, Triple M Bendigo; hit 93.5 Dubbo, Triple M Central West NSW.
- 24/10/19 Sydney Morning Herald report on [Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW' report](#) undertaken by NCOSS, launched at APW event in NSW Parliament House. 11 online articles, 2 TV interviews broadcast on 21 stations and 27 radio segments broadcast on 154 stations monitored on 24/10/19 only.

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in NSW between 13-19 October only:

	NSW
AM Radio	56
FM Radio	70
TV	37

MISSION AUSTRALIA | together we stand



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Northern Territory Co-Chairs Tess Snowden, Policy Officer NTCOSS and Nicola Flook, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Jesuit Social Services, NT.

Select events and advocacy:

- 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.
- Alice Springs: [Creating Art](#)
- Darwin [Bills and Brekkie](#) events in two low income suburbs (Palmerston and Casuarina) attended by a total of ~200 people who received assistance with their energy bills and other aspects of budgeting and practical support. Event was co-hosted by Jacana Energy (NT energy provider), NTCOSS, Jesuit Social Services, St Vincent de Paul Society, Foodbank NT and United Voice NT.

Select NT media:

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in NT between 13-19 October only:

	NT
AM Radio	2
FM Radio	2
TV	1



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Queensland- Co-Chairs Matt Gardiner, Services Lead, Save the Children and Sandy Paton, President, Capricorn Community Development Association.

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group:

- Promotion through large NGO agencies including Vinnies, Mission Australia, Uniting Care, The Benevolent Society, QLD Shelter, COTA, Mental Health Alliance and at QCOSS September State Conference (via Conference App and President's address). APW fortnightly eNews circulated to community sector networks in Central QLD and to Central Queensland State MP.

Select Events and advocacy:

- Brisbane: [Raise the Rate Forum](#), Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie 18/10/19.
- 3 events in Central Queensland: Rockhampton Mental Health Interagency Community of Practice Anti-Poverty Week Meeting, 17 October; Capricorn Community Development Association Anti-Poverty Week Luncheon – Topic- Tenancy Skills and Reconnect, 17 October and Livingstone Shire Community Centre Anti-Poverty Week Event, 18 October.
- Logan: [Addressing poverty can help address homelessness](#), community street stall with YFS and QLD Department of Housing and Public Works
- Mackay: [Many Voices – 1 Message – Raise the Rate](#), hosted by The Neighbourhood Hub includes sausage sizzle, info and support.
- Noosa Council: [Tewantin Dollars and Sense Event](#) 15 /10/19.
- Maroochydore and Nambour: [Hearing Australia brings hearing services to the doorstep of The Salvation Army](#).

Select QLD Media coverage:

- QCOSS CEO radio interview 4RR ahead of APW.
- Salvation Army Moneycare events covered in Gladstone and Bundaberg newspapers, WIN TV Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton QLD.
- 18/10/19 [QLD Deputy Premier supports increasing Newstart](#) at APW Raise the Rate forum – first time Queensland Government has publicly supported Raise the Rate.
- Barry O'Rourke State MP for Rockhampton, interviews re Anti-Poverty Week on WIN news during APW and 31/10/19.

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in QLD between 13-19 October only:

	QLD
AM Radio	20
FM Radio	26
TV	41

**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



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

South Australia – Co-Chairs Peter Sandeman, CEO, Anglicare South Australia and Greg Pattinson, CEO Foodbank South Australia.

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group:

- South Australian perspective on Foodbank and Anglicare national reports released in APW plus outreach to LGAs, service clubs, Anglican and government schools, SA Education Department; Uniting Communities SA networks, promoted via SACOSS eNews. Also outreach to South Australian Children's Commissioner.

Select Events and advocacy:

- [Foodbank Hunger Report SA data](#) released 12/10
- Anglicare Australia Jobs Availability Snapshot released 16/10
- SA Commissioner Children and Young People launched her [Poverty Report: Leave No One Behind](#) on 17/10.
- [Poverty Simulation](#) event for 300 health students at the Faculty of Health and Medical sciences at the University of Adelaide to consider a range of situations that affect people living in poverty (also undertaken in 2018).
- Adelaide: Uniting Communities SA hosted an [info session on ways to save on utility bills](#), learn about hardship programs, concessions and financial counselling.
- Murray Bridge: A [free Sausage sizzle](#) was held in the carpark at front of Salvos Stores.
- Port Lincoln: APW event with more than 12 agencies, 17/10. Covered by local TV stations Central GTS & Southern Cross GTS.
- SACOSS: [Anti-Poverty Week post](#)

Select SA Media coverage:

- [South Australian food charities can't meet demand](#), SBS 13/10
- Peter Sandeman, Opinion Piece, "Many are forced between paying bills, filling prescriptions or buying shoes for their children, [Adelaide Advertiser](#), 16/10 (also online, Adelaide Now & Perth Now 15/10)
- [Heartbreaking effect of poverty on SA kids](#), Adelaide Advertiser, 18/10.

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in SA between 13-19 October only:

	SA
AM Radio	4
FM Radio	9
TV	7



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Tasmanian Co-Chairs: Chris Demeyer, Family & Community Services Manager, Baptcare Tasmania and Justin Cooper/Stacey Milbourne, Salvation Army

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group:

- Outreach to Local Government in Hobart and Launceston plus Cricket Tasmania and also partnership with ABC in Northern Tasmania. Large number of events, many with multiple agencies coming together..

Select Events and advocacy:

- Channel 7 Tasmania featured an Anti-Poverty Week Community Service Announcement for the two weeks leading up to APW and then during the Week.
- Channel 7 community announcement ran for 2 weeks prior to APW (Cost \$500).
- [Colony 47](#) brought a group of young people to Tasmania's Parliament for a panel with representatives of all political parties on Friday prior to APW. The young people put their perspective on the financial challenges and barriers that young people face when receiving Youth or Newstart allowances and solutions to these challenges.
- [State APW Launch](#) - City of Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds was joined by CEO of TasCOSS Kym Goodes and Stacey Milbourne from the Salvation Army in kick starting APW 2019 in Hobart.
- Launceston Anti-Poverty Week Summit – attended by local government, Salvation Army, Baptcare and other NGO agencies.
- Eddie Woo, internationally-renowned high school mathematics teacher and Internet sensation, led a [Power of Education](#) Panel including The Smith Family's national manager, research and evaluation and a Tasmanian academic at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.
- [The Big Table Community Lunch](#) in East Devonport organised by East Devonport Community House and Housing Choices Tasmania with support from Anglicare, SafeChoices and The Smith Family.
- [Connect the Brain](#) event aimed at young people aged 17-25 years in Bridgewater, Tasmania: Uniting, The Bridgewater PCYC, Australian Red Cross, and the Link Youth Health Centre. Combining nutrition with mental health information, young people had the opportunity to chill out with friends while making their own healthy lunch wraps.
- [Free Pizza lunch](#) for Colony 47 clients in Tasmania.

Select Tasmanian Media coverage:

- ["Poverty must be a priority"](#), Editorial in Tasmanian Advocate, 12/10/19.
- State launch covered in FM radio Mirage News ["Putting a focus on ending poverty."](#)
- Launceston Anti-Poverty Week forum covered in The Examiner, [Launceston Anti Poverty Week forum talks raising Newstart and preventing homelessness](#), 15/10/19.
- Dr Chris Jones, CEO of Anglicare Tasmania, Opinion Piece, "Newstart simply not enough for basic living", [Tasmanian Advocate](#), 16/10/19.
- [Tasmanian Premier comes out in support of Newstart increase](#), 8/11/19.

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in Tasmania between 13-19 October only:

	TAS
AM Radio	3
FM Radio	9
TV	9

Slide used at Eddie Woo event, University of Tasmania



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Victorian Co-Chairs Jenny Davidson, CEO, Council for Single Mothers and their Children, Victoria and Dave Wells, GM Innovation, Impact and Government Affairs, Melbourne City Mission.

Focus of Co-Chairs and Facilitating Group: Outreach to Shepparton, encouraged advocacy on Raise the Rate, worked closely with VCOSS to circulate APW info including special APW eNews

Select Events and advocacy:

- [State Schools' Relief](#) Victoria ran a fundraising drive throughout Anti-Poverty Week – all donations to vulnerable public school students matched \$ for \$.
- The Brotherhood of St Laurence had a team of runners in the [Melbourne Marathon](#) with bibs featuring “No child left behind.” Uniting Vic/Tas also had a team running in the Marathon with a focus on ending poverty.
- [Poverty, Vulnerability and a Focus on Children: Messages from the Margins](#), Catholic Social Services.
- [Lunch for a Good Cause](#) fundraising event in Melbourne hosted by the Hundred School Project Inc to build study desks and chairs for school children in Bihar and Rajasthan, India.
- The Brotherhood of St Laurence hosted [Looking back, looking forward, looking across the Tasman](#) focusing on reducing child poverty, speakers included NZ academic Dr Michael Fletcher and Australian child poverty experts and practitioners.
- Banyule Community Health Centre, West Heidelberg: [APW event with local Federal & State MPs, 18 October](#) Kate Thwaites, Federal MP for Jaga Jaga, Anthony Carbines, State Member for Ivanhoe and Federal Opposition Leader, Anthony Albanese.
- City of Brimbank: <https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/news-and-events/media-releases-2019/october-2019/make-donation-support-anti-poverty-week>
- [Port Phillip Community Group Raise the Rate](#) community event including lunch, speakers and activities.
- Berry St advocacy on Raise the Rate (>11,000 signatures for petition/email PM) plus CEO Michael Perusco [Linked In article](#)
- Shepparton Family Care hosted a [community sausage sizzle](#) but only serve half a sausage to acknowledge the inadequacy of the Newstart payments.
- 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.
- [APW event with local Federal & State MPs, 18 October](#) Kate Thwaites, Federal MP for Jaga Jaga, Anthony Carbines, State Member for Ivanhoe and Federal Opposition Leader, Anthony Albanese: “*We’re a wealthy country. We can afford to make sure that we look after people. And you judge a society by how it looks after its most vulnerable rather than how it looks after its most wealthy.... What we’re seeing here, at this service, in Anti-Poverty Week, is the impact of failings in our economy. People are being left behind. People who are in work are struggling to put food on the table, to pay their electricity bills, because of wage stagnation, because of a decline in real living standards.*” APW event held at Banyule Community Health Centre, West Heidelberg.

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Select Victorian Media coverage:

- Toni Wren, Opinion Piece, "Here's a \$75 a week fix that would help solve Australia's poverty problem," The Age ([online 14/10](#)).
- Ross Gittins, Opinion Piece "Morrison too poor to fix poverty," The Age ([online 15/10](#)).
- ABC Radio Talkback forum to mark Anti-Poverty Week: Poverty in Melbourne and Victoria, [16 October, The Conversation Hour Melbourne](#) (Virginia Trioli host.) Speakers included Prof Roger Wilkins - Deputy Director of the Melbourne Institute at the University of Melbourne, Dr Dina Bowman - Principal Fellow for Work and Economic Security at the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Paul McDonald - CEO of Anglicare Victoria.
- Salvation Army Moneycare events covered in [Shepparton](#) (also ABC Radio) and regional FM Radio: hit 91.9 Bendigo, Triple M Bendigo.
- Shepparton Half Suasage Sizzle and Newstart covered by local media, 17/10.
- State Schools' Relief covered by FM radio Gippsland and 89.7 Eastside FM radio.

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in VIC between 13-19 October only:

	VIC
AM Radio	4
FM Radio	25
TV	22



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

West Australian Co-Chairs Bev Jowle, Executive Officer Financial Counsellors Association WA and Davd Cain, CEO of Communicare.

Focus of CO-Chairs and Facilitating Group: link to 100 Families project, circulate info via WACOSS , sent letters to WA Mayors and Community Development Networks of Local Government Association.

Events and advocacy:

- Perth: the WA Anti-Poverty Week Facilitating Group in partnership with [100 Families WA](#) released the latest project Bulletin, on the impact of poverty in the lives of 100 Families WA participants.
- Ecumenical Church Service in Perth, 19/10/19
- WA Anglicare created a [Household Money Saving Tips and Tricks: Booklet](#) for APW 2019 to help people with the cost of living. It was available and promoted at all of their offices and many local libraries and CRC's in WA.
- [Perth Anti-Poverty Network held a Raise the Rate rally](#) including a speaker from the Australian Unemployed Workers' Union.
- Perth: [APW Street Soccer Cup](#): The Big Issue's regular Street Soccer program hosted a relaxed round-robin style 5 a-side tournament for players of all abilities and fitness.
- Albany: [bus tour of Op Shops](#) for residents to learn about how they can support people in need.
- Rockingham <https://www.coastlive.com.au/news/local-news/live-life-for-less-expo-in-rockingham/>

Select WA Media coverage:

- AAP story based on APW Media Alert, [The West Australian](#) 13/10/19
- WA APW Co-Chair Bev Jowle, Opinion Piece, "Raise the Rate to help beat poverty", The West Australian 14/10/19 (see Appendix).
- Peter Sandeman Opinion Piece, Perth Now 15/10 (online)
- [National Rural Health Alliance Media Release 14/10/19](#) and their CEO on ABC Radio Kimberly and ABC Radio Pilbara, Bunbury and Albany WA plus [South Australia Magic 89.9 FM Radio](#)

Number of Electronic APW stories broadcast in WA between 13-19 October only:

	WA
AM Radio	20
FM Radio	5
TV	6

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report



ANTI-POVERTY WEEK CONVERSATION AND WORKSHOP TO END POVERTY

Join the Anti-Poverty Week committee in partnership with 100 Families WA on Monday 14 October for the release of the latest project Bulletin, which will focus in on the findings from the Baseline Report of the impact of poverty in the lives of 100 Families WA participants.

During Anti-Poverty Week we are motivated even more to identify the drivers of poverty, and to work collaboratively to identify solutions. Following the presentation and panel from 100 Families WA, community services will be invited to join a Co-Lab workshop, to identify priorities that need to be addressed, and to potentially identify a 'roadmap' for how community services can work together to end poverty in Western Australia.

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Date: Monday 14 October 2019

Location: The Platform, Level 3, 256 Adelaide Terrace, Perth
Food and refreshments provided.

RSVP VIA Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/APW100Fam>



Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

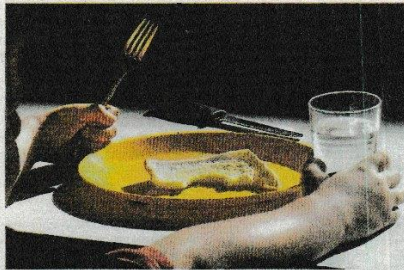
APPENDIX: Select Media Coverage by State/Territory

Summary of electronic Media Monitoring by State/Territory 13-19 October only

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
AM Radio	21	56	2	20	4	3	4	20
FM Radio	17	70	2	26	9	9	25	5
TV	10	37	1	41	7	9	22	6
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
AM Radio	21	56	2	20	4	3	4	20
FM Radio	17	70	2	26	9	9	25	5
TV	10	37	1	41	7	9	22	6

18 THE CANBERRA TIMES Thursday October 17, 2019

OPINION



Research shows adversity experienced by children in their earliest years can have a negative impact throughout their lifetime. Picture: Vince Calliguri

As the Newstart debate rages, it's time to give all our kids a fair start

Penny Dakin

OUR kids do better now, and are more likely to do better in the future, when they have their needs met, and when their families are supported to nurture them. But families are sometimes rocked by events they can't control, such as unemployment or illness. When this happens it's down to all of us, and it benefits all of us, to do what we can to help families and kids.

But as we mark Anti-Poverty Week, and the Senate reviews the adequacy of Newstart and related payments, the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) is increasingly concerned that the damage Newstart-driven poverty is doing to young Australians today, and potentially for the rest of their lives, is not being taken into account, least of all by our political leaders.

ARACY exists to ensure the maximum benefit to Australia's children and taxpayers. We do so by working to ensure policies and programs, designed to help young Australians reach their potential, are based on solid evidence of what works.

ARACY only fairly recently came to the view that Newstart and other benefits should be increased. We did so only after conducting a significant piece of analysis, funded by the Australian government and using data from the government-funded Longitudinal Study of Australian Children which, since 2003, has tracked the development of 10,000 Australian kids and their families.

The findings of our work are summarised in *To have and to have not: Measuring child deprivation and opportunity in Australia*. The report paints a picture of the extent to which Australian children are having their needs met in key and interlocking areas which research shows are central to a child's well-being: Being Loved and Safe; Being Healthy; Learning; Participating; Having a Positive Sense of Identity & Culture and Having Material Basics. *To have and to have not* compared deprivation levels across the general population of Australian children with those living with disability, those living in poverty and those living in jobless families.

Our analysis showed that children in jobless families are more likely to suffer deprivation than any other group examined. For example, they are more than four times more likely to be homeless than children in families where an adult works and nearly twice as likely to be bullied or face social exclusion. They are also much more likely to face risks to their education than kids in homes where someone is able to work.

In short, we unexpectedly found that living in a home where no one is able to find a job, a home likely to be reliant on Newstart (or some other form of unemployment support) can potentially have a greater negative impact on a child than that child having a disability. But the impacts can be felt by the children and the communities in which they live well beyond the childhood years.

Research by The Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Rupa Health and ARACY shows adversity experienced by children in their earliest years can have a negative impact throughout their lifetime. For example, adult conditions such as coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer are now being linked to pathways that originated prior to or during the first 1000 days.

This means the negative impacts caused to kids by today's inadequate Newstart levels can be felt by kids and their communities, in forms including higher rates of unemployment (with the perverse outcome of higher social security costs to taxpayers in the future) and an even more stretched health system.

There are already too many Australian kids in families that are being left behind. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) recently found that one in nine families with children had no one in the family who was employed, about 9 per cent of workers were underemployed or unable to find as many hours of work as they would like, and more than 1 million low-income households are spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent or mortgage repayments.

Unemployment is on the rise. ANZ reports that job advertisements fell by 10.4% in September. The threat of global recession seems to strengthen daily. We will continue to be told that "the best form of welfare is a job", and largely, that is true. But this will be cold comfort to the kids in families who, despite their best efforts, find themselves driven to poverty by a pincer of economic conditions and a punitive unemployment benefits policy.

This year the theme of Anti-Poverty Week is "Poverty Exists. Poverty Hurts us all. We can do something about it". ARACY's research backs these statements. Moreover it shows that we must act now to save our kids and our whole community from suffering, now and in the future. This Anti-Poverty Week, as we debate Newstart, it's time to ensure we give all Australian kids a fair start.

Penny Dakin is chief executive officer of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.

EDITORIAL

The Newstart payment is far too low

WHILE there is an appealing and simplistic truth to Scott Morrison's mantra "the best form of welfare is a job", we need to accept not everybody will find employment regardless of how strong the economy is.

This was highlighted by Anglicare Australia's Jobs Availability Report this week which said there were five "low skilled applicants" for every entry level job.

With the odds already running at one in five against them, it is fair to say those at the lower end of the competence or educational scale, or suffering from a perceived handicap such as age or ethnicity, are on a hiding to nothing.

Why then is this government so hell bent on punishing the most disadvantaged members of our community by refusing to lift Newstart to a liveable level?

The Coalition's intransigence is hard to fathom when you consider former Nationals leader and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, definitely gets it.

His "weatherboard and iron" constituency includes many for whom Newstart is the only lifeline available and whose job opportunities, along with access to support services, are very limited.

Anglicare said some of the main barriers to finding work, in the regions and elsewhere,

The Canberra Times

TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY
AND THROUGH IT THE NATION

Mental health is also a significant, and often overlooked, factor.

included disability, dropping out of school early, losing your job after the age of 50 or being a refugee or an indigenous Australian.

Mental health is also a significant factor.

Anglicare found that as of May this year nearly 100,000 of the 704,700 people registered as unemployed had "significant barriers to finding a job". This was the group that was competing for just 18,200 entry level or unskilled jobs.

It is obvious at least two things have to be done almost immediately.

The first and the simplest is to increase Newstart by at least \$30 to \$40 a week to give recipients breathing space pending a comprehensive investigation into what a fair and equitable, and livable, allowance would be.

The second is to get cracking on eliminating the barriers to employment, which often have their roots in employers' prejudices and ignorance of people's potential, holding so many of us back.

A single person on Newstart receives \$180 a week less than an aged pensioner the Senate inquiry into Newstart was told last week. This doesn't mean the pension is generous; it reflects the fact Newstart is way too low. Under the current settings being forced onto Newstart through the loss of your job

is tantamount to being condemned to live in poverty.

The problem has been compounded by the success of campaigns by a succession of governments dating back to the turn of the century and before to restrict access to welfare.

It is only a few short days ago that Families and Social Services Minister, Anne Ruston, was celebrating the reduction in projected future welfare spending in the forward estimates from \$6.4 trillion in 2014 to \$5.7 trillion in 2018.

Her opposition counterpart, Linda Burney, noted that despite this the number of people over 55 on Newstart had jumped by almost half since the Abbott government was elected almost seven years ago.

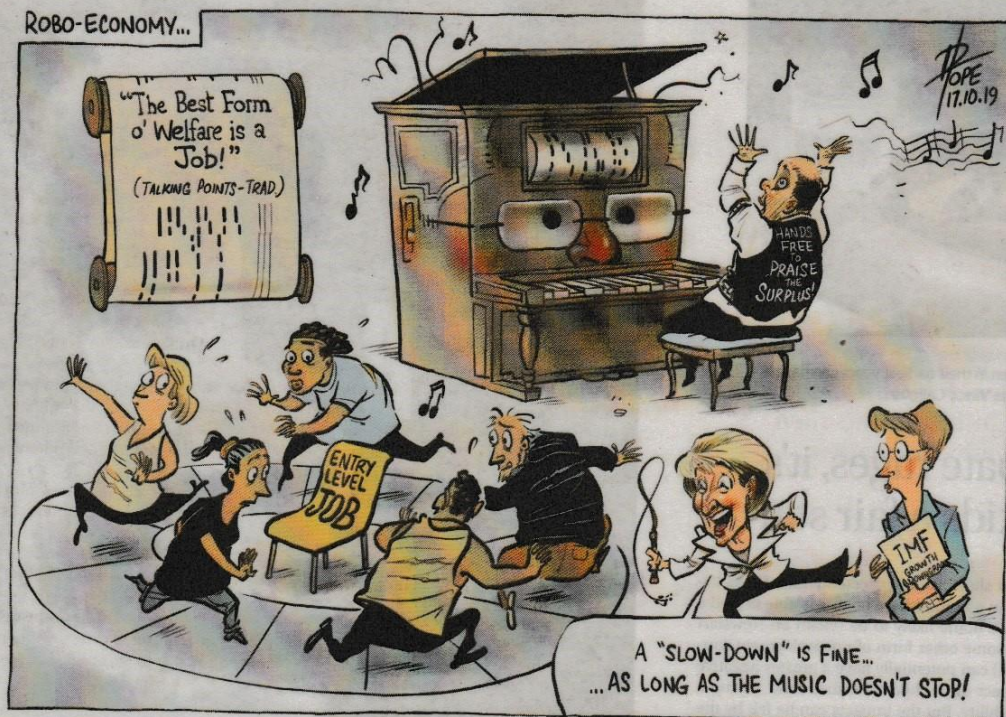
The disability pension, once a meaningful safety net for those with physical and mental health issues which limited their employability, has become progressively harder to get with the number of recipients falling by 10.2 per cent between 2014 and 2018.

The Morrison government has repeatedly said it wants to cut taxes to put more money into people's pockets to deliver an economic stimulus. Increasing Newstart would have the same effect while changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for the better.

canberratimes.com.au

Thursday October 17, 2019

POPE'S VIEW



David Pope, The Canberra Times, 17 October 2019, also featured in Talking Pictures with Mike Bowers, ABC Insiders, 20 October 2019

New South Wales

Lack of low-skilled jobs bolsters argument for Newstart increase

SMH 16/10/19

Judith Ireland

There are five low-skilled applicants competing for every entry-level job, making it impossible for some unemployed Australians to find work, new research on job availability has found.

As the Morrison government continues to resist calls to raise Newstart, arguing people should get a job instead, Anglicare Australia says "it is a simple mathematical fact" there are not enough jobs to go around.

In its Jobs Availability Snapshot, Anglicare Australia compared government data on the number of unemployed people who have significant barriers to gaining work with the number of suitable online positions advertised in May 2019.

Barriers to gaining work include disability, not finishing high school, losing your job in your 50s and being a refugee or Indigenous Australian.

As of May 2019, there were 704,700 unemployed people, with nearly 100,000 classified as facing

significant barriers to finding a job. It found there were 18,200 low-skilled entry-level jobs advertised that month.

Based on these figures, Anglicare says there are about five low-skilled job seekers competing for every low-skilled job. Anglicare Australia executive director Kasy Chambers explained this was a conservative estimate as it did not include recent graduates or others who may be seeking to boost their income with a low-skilled job.

"To us, this [report] blows a hole in the 'just get a job' argument," Ms Chambers said.

According to the government's talking points, accidentally released on Monday, in response to questions about Newstart, MPs are supposed to note: "the best form of welfare is a job. And the government is absolutely focussed on getting people off welfare and into work".

Anglicare's report found the low-skilled jobs are "drying up" due to labour market changes and a growing emphasis on more complex jobs. This year, only 10 per

cent of job vacancies did not require qualifications or work experience, down from 22 per cent in 2006.

Along with an immediate increase to the rate of Newstart, which is about \$40 a day for a single person, Anglicare said the payment should be set by an independent commission, to take it out of the hands of politicians.

Employment Minister Michaelia Cash said almost 1.5 million jobs had been created since the Coalition won government in 2013.

"The labour market is constantly providing opportunities for unemployed people," she said.

She added the government spent "billions every year to provide job seekers of all abilities the best opportunity for employment that works for them".

The government announced an overhaul of unemployment services before the election. Senator Cash said the national rollout - due in 2022 - will "redirect resources to be better spent on those who face the greatest barriers in the job market".

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

Mission Australia staff have letter to the Editor published in 6 regional papers: 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.

Focus on poverty

MANY of the people we work with at Mission Australia live in poverty.

Anti-Poverty Week ran from October 13-19. This week we need to reflect on the three million people in Australia who live below the poverty line, including 739,000 children. This is unacceptable and much more can and should be done. Ensuring the adequacy of income support is one of the most important and effective ways to prevent poverty and reduce homelessness across Australia. The rate of Newstart remains woefully low at less than \$40 per day.

Every day, we see the impact that inadequate social security support is having on people, driving them further into poverty and increasing their risk of homelessness. Income support

payments fall well short of the income that's actually required to cover bills, food, healthcare, power and the rising cost of rent.

Poverty means families and individuals have to make unacceptable choices, such as whether to go without food or medicine or whether to miss a job interview because they cannot afford the bus. They can be forced into unsuitable and often unsafe accommodation because it is all they can afford, which can seriously impact on mental health and wellbeing.

For so many of the people we help, the overwhelming cost of rent is a significant proportion of their income. Just one small change in their financial circumstances can throw them into precarious and stressful living situations including homelessness.

I encourage you to call on our political leaders to help those living in poverty and urgently increase Newstart and Youth Allowance. So that everyone has enough money to stay well, put a safe, secure roof over their head and food on their table.

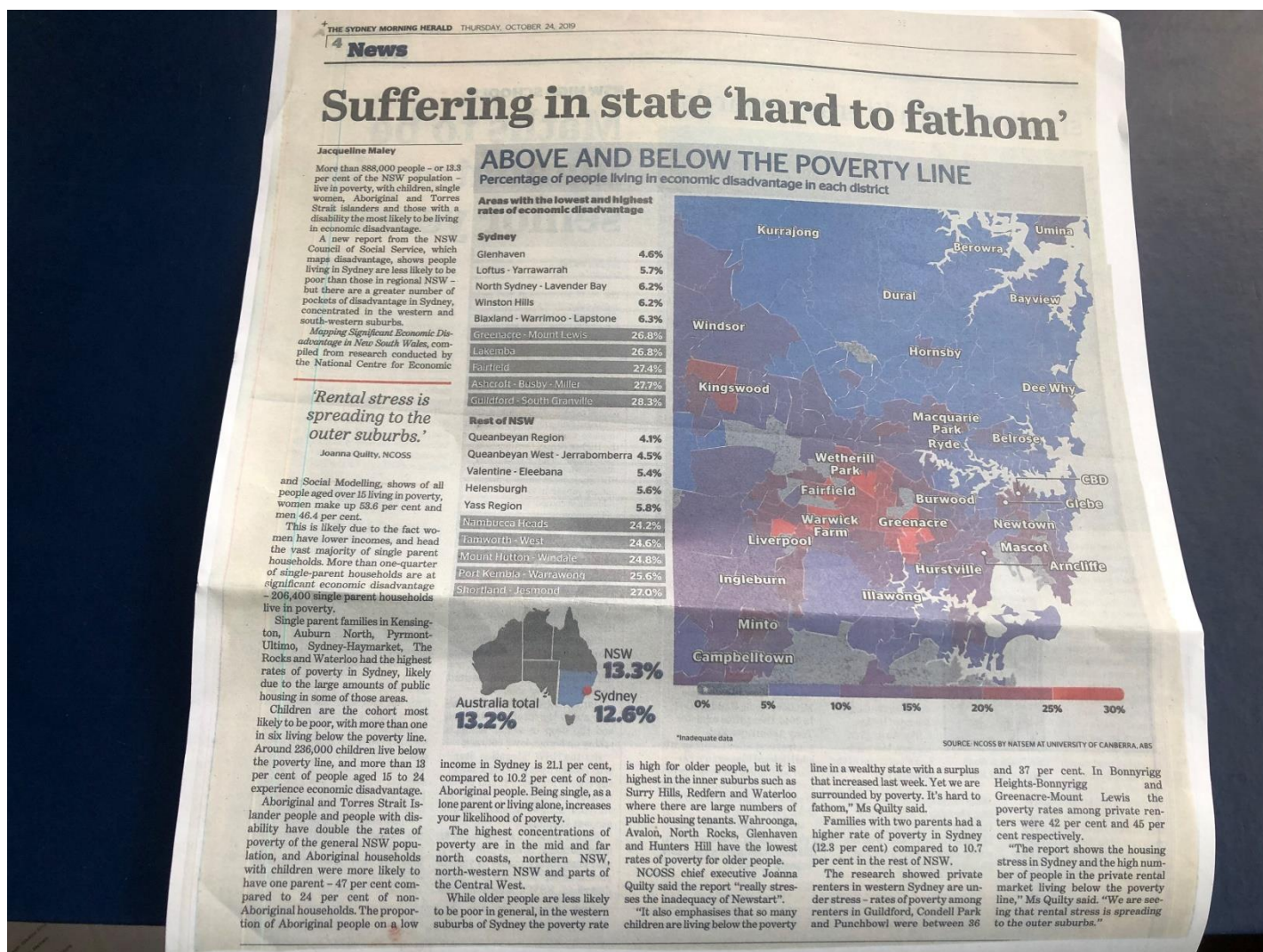
Vanessa Thomas,
Support Facilitator,
Mission Australia, Lismore.

NORTHERN
STAR, LISMORE

19/10/19

Anti-Poverty Week 2019- State/Territory Report

24/10/19 Sydney Morning Herald report on [Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW' report](#) undertaken by NCOSS, launched at APW event in NSW Parliament House. 11 online articles, 2 TV broadcast segments on 21 stations and 27 radio segments broadcast on 154 stations monitored on 24/10/19 only.



South Australia

Page 10



Many are forced to choose between paying bills, filling prescriptions or buying shoes for the children - Peter Sandeman

IN Australia, more than 13 per cent of us are living below the poverty line. Devastatingly, one in six of our children is going to bed hungry.

This is the stark reality facing many in our community in Anti-Poverty Week.

Bringing together individuals and organisations from across the nation, Anti-Poverty Week encourages all Australians to take action and create positive change to end poverty.

Centring on the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty tomorrow, the week seeks to increase our community's understanding of poverty and promote long-term solutions to disadvantage.

Ending poverty is an imperative that has moved well beyond the social services sector.

Last week, in an unprecedented move, accounting firm KPMG called for a payment increase of \$100 a week to those in need.

Joining previous calls from the Business Council of Australia and the Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe, the accounting powerhouse outlined the clear economic incentives, along with the social benefits, of raising the rate.

In its submission to a Senate inquiry into welfare payments, KPMG said the Newstart rate "tears at our inclusive social contract" and advocated for a fairer rate that still encouraged financial independence.

Today, more than 800,000 Australians are living on Newstart or related payments.

Anglicare SA is an organisation that supports, works with and advocates for those experiencing poverty to ensure all Australians lead a dignified life.

Through our emergency assistance hubs across the state, we work at the coalface of poverty in our communities.

Daily, these Australians – parents, carers, those living with a disability, students and those unable to secure paid work – are struggling to afford basic essentials.

Many struggle to keep a roof over their heads or food on their table.

They're forced to choose between paying their bills, filling prescriptions for much-needed medication or buying new shoes for their children.

We cannot expect vulnerable Australians to pursue a better life, to seek stable employment or contribute to our communities while they are hungry or homeless.

Once a safety net, after 25 years of stagnant rates, allowances such as Newstart, Youth Allowance and similar payments have become a poverty trap.

As South Australia's largest provider of social services, we do not believe that one-off payments and tax cuts will lift Australians out of poverty.

The poorest in our community need sustainable, contemporary supports to overcome the barriers they face.

Raising the Newstart rate would be a powerful step toward reducing poverty in our community.

It is within the Parliament's grasp to alleviate the daily struggles of those accessing these payments.

Rather than dismiss Australians in need, or resort to damaging, ill-informed stereotypes, we are calling upon Federal Families and Social Services Minister Anne Ruston, and our Parliament, to show leadership on this issue.

We are calling on South Australian MPs to stand with the 92 per cent of their constituents, who believe that no one should have to go without food, health care, transport or power.

Rather than stigmatising those who are struggling, we are calling on them to partner with the non-government sector, employers and our communities to help Australians get back on their feet.

Raising the rate, by as little as \$10 a day, is an essential investment in those doing it tough.

It will engage and empower. It will create a brighter future for our children.

Together, we can use this week to demand action.

Let's deliver meaningful change to the lives of many living in poverty.

PETER SANDEMAN IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ANGLICARE SA

Adelaide Advertiser
16/10/19, also online
Adelaide Now & Perth
Now

48

The West Australian
Monday, October 14, 2019

OPINION

EDITORIAL

It is worth exploring many ways to tackle school violence

Bad behaviour by school students is not new. Sit down with Australians of more mature years, and no doubt they will be able to recite plenty of stories of misbehaviour when they were still in school uniform.

It's likely they will include memories of fisticuffs on the oval or smoking behind the bike sheds.

But there does seem to be a feeling that misbehaviour now has a different, more disturbing, even menacing tinge.

And it seems teachers are in the firing line like never before.

Another factor which was not part of the school environment in days past is the use of mobile phones to record and publicise violence.

The often sickening acts can be made public minutes after being filmed.

In July last year Education Minister Sue Ellery spoke of "drawing a line in the sand".

"Getting tougher on this issue means we will see an increase in the number of students suspended and excluded from public schools. That's the reality," Ms Ellery wrote in *The West Australian*.

In December, the Government released a new plan under which aggressive and out-of-control students would face a raft of tough consequences.

The "Let's Take a Stand Together" action plan introduced automatic suspensions of up to 10 days for a child who attacked another student or instigated a fight — and pulling out a mobile phone to record an altercation rather than calling for help would attract the same punishment.

The policy said principals would be told to immediately move to expel the perpetrator in the wake of the attack. Exclusions could be permanent or last for a set period of time, such as a term.

In keeping with the crackdown, the rate of pupils expelled from public schools for poor or violent behaviour has more than trebled since last year.

Last week *The West Australian* revealed that the McGowan Government was also pursuing a different approach.

The Government will pour \$250,000 into a research project encouraging WA public schools to take a more "thoughtful" approach to unruly behaviour, and will investigate how schools can turn around unruly or aggressive children without resorting to punishment such as suspensions.

The reality is no single way will offer all the answers, so deploying a range of methods is a worthwhile approach.

And as Ms Ellery has noted, while the Government has taken action to address violence, it is crucial parents do the same. Society as a whole must step up to the plate.



Signed Alston prints are available from www.westpix.com.au or 9482 2378.

Raise the rate to help beat poverty

BEV JOWLE

This week is Anti-Poverty Week. In Western Australia today 500,000 people live below the poverty line, one in six of those are children.

You might not see it, but poverty does exist in our so-called lucky country.

They aren't the quiet Australians.

Silent Australians live with the financial stress of making ends meet; over time, it takes a physical, psychological and emotional toll.

Silent Australians live with the hope today will be the day when one of their many job applications is successful.

Silent Australians live with the exhaustion of struggling to get enough hours at work or juggling two or more jobs.

Silent Australians live with constant hunger pangs barely able to afford one meal a day; while every week in WA, 18,000 children go to school without breakfast.

Silent Australians live with the guilt and shame of sending their kids to school without lunch to eat, wearing ill-fitting uniforms and unable to afford to send them on excursions. In every classroom of 30 students, five children will experience this.

Silent Australians live with the insecurity of having no safe place to call home. In this State 9000 West Australians experience homelessness; 3000 are under the age of 18.

Silent Australians live in fear of ending up in jail and their children placed in State care because they

default on their fines. Silent Australians live with the constant pain from being unable to afford medication, let alone see a doctor or specialist.

Silent Australians aspire to the same dream as the rest of us: a safe and stable place to live, food for their family, clothes that fit and aren't worn thin, secure employment and a reliable income.

It's something you and I take for granted, yet one in five West Australians go without it all.

The latest 100 Families WA Project report, released this week, examines poverty in WA.

It defines poverty as "the inability to afford what most Australians would think of as the necessities for a good quality of life".

Poverty should not be tolerated in a prosperous community like Australia. We should be able to feed, clothe, house and support everyone in a country with such abundant resources.

We need to examine the systemic and structural issues which lead to poverty and inequality, and begin the process to eliminate poverty.

We need to move away from the narrative that poverty is somehow due to personal failure, laziness and other moral judgements.

We need to make it easier for individuals and families to get back on their feet — with dignity; to begin to untangle themselves from the poverty trap in which they're ensnared.

While there are many and complex causes of poverty, there is one simple act which would immediately help people to begin to turn their lives

around and provide some breathing space.

Raise the Newstart rate.

The Newstart Allowance has not budged in 26 years.

So, despite everyday costs for housing, food, clothing, utilities and transport having continually risen, has remained as little as \$40 a day to cover all expenses. There's little wonder that the community services, unions and the business sector, even Barnaby Joyce, are agreed on this.

KPMG just last week called for a \$100 weekly increase in Newstart. This major accountancy firm gets it: not only do those people receiving the money need it, as a community, we need all Australians to be able to engage in our society and economy.

On a sobering note, in the current climate of economic job insecurity, financial instability, rising negative equity in the property market, most of us are one or two unforeseen circumstances, such as job loss, poor health or injury, personal loss or even an unexpected dependent, from falling into poverty.

Surely, we are better than this.

I would like to think as a community, we find the thought of 500,000 West Australians living below the poverty line (among a population of 2.5 million) as unacceptable; and as a community, we would want to begin to bring an end to poverty.

The starting point for change is obvious — and overdue.

Bev Jowle is executive officer, Financial Counselling Association WA and co-chair, Anti-Poverty Week WA