



Together we can halve child poverty by 2030

Let's make sure that all Australian children and families can cover the basics and have a secure roof over their head. Children can thrive and be healthy when they have what they need to develop well.

Poverty rates in Australia, the so-called lucky country, have barely shifted since 2002, and for children, they're [increasing](#). [More than 1 in 6](#) Australian children (over three quarters of a million) live in poverty, diminishing their lives now and in the future.

17 October 2022 marks the 30th year of the declaration of the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) and the 20th year of Australia dedicating a week to act on poverty.

This Anti-Poverty Week we are calling on all our Parliamentarians to commit to **halve child poverty by 2030**. This means we can meet our international commitments to the UN Convention on the [Rights of the Child](#) and UN [Global Goals](#) (Sustainable Development Goals).

Our Federal Parliamentarians need to pass legislation to halve child poverty by 2030, with measurable targets and actions to achieve this goal.

The New Zealand Government introduced such legislation in 2018 and they've made great [progress](#) so that fewer children live in poverty. Setting targets enshrined in legislation works and changes lives for the better.

To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to ensure every family has what they need.

A legislated plan to halve child poverty by 2030 would be a huge step to achieving this.

Sign our [Pledge](#) to Halve Child Poverty by 2030



In 2022, Anti-Poverty Week is sponsored by:

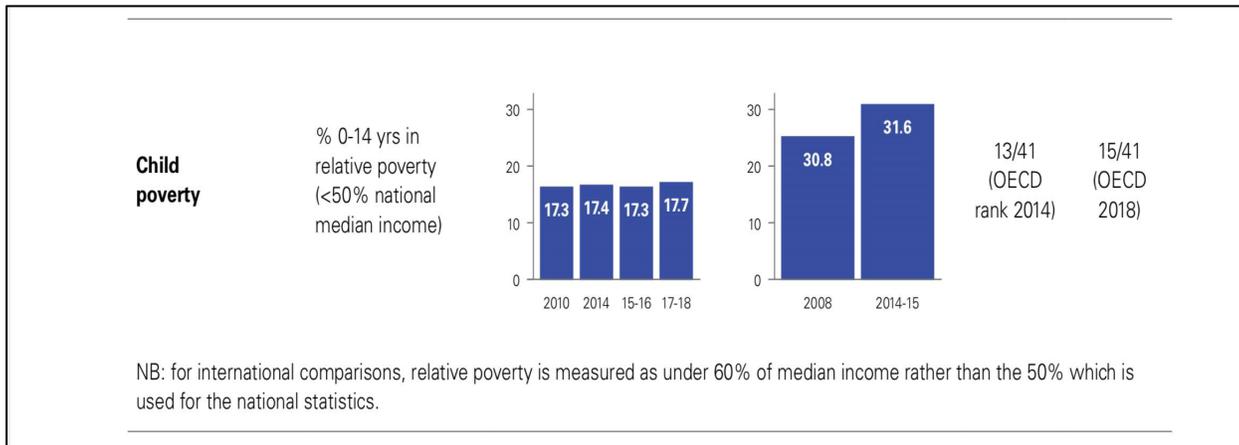
[Brotherhood of St Laurence](#); [Berry Street](#); [St Vincent de Paul Society](#), [The Smith Family](#); [Anglicare Australia](#); [Uniting Vic/Tas](#); [The Life Course Centre](#) – ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course; [UnitingCare Australia](#); [The Salvation Army](#); [Australian Education Union](#) (Federal); [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation](#).

2022 State/Territory Co-Chairs include: [ACTCOSS](#), [Care Financial Counselling Service ACT](#); [NCOSS](#); [PeakCare](#) Qld; [NAPCAN](#); [Commissioner for Children and Young People SA](#), [Baptist Care SA](#); [Salvation Army Tasmania](#); [Uniting Vic/Tas](#); [Family Care](#) Shepparton; [Centre Care](#) WA, [Foodbank WA](#). **Supporters** include [ACOSS](#), [Everybody's Home](#), [Foodbank Australia](#), [Mission Australia](#) and the [National Council for Single Mothers and Their Children](#).

#EndChildPoverty #AntiPovertyWeek #APW22

Child poverty exists and diminishes children's lives now, and in the future

UNICEF Australia and ARACY, *The Wellbeing of Australia's Children*, December 2021, page 19:



Starting school: *“Growing up in poverty is a strong predictor of a child being developmentally vulnerable by the time they start school.”* In 2021, more than 1 in 5 Australian children (22%) were assessed as developmentally vulnerable when they started school, potentially reducing good health, education and social outcomes later in life. [Australian Early Development Census, 2022.](#)

At school: For one-in-six Australian children who live in poverty, disadvantage at home carries over into disadvantage at school. Children living in poverty have lower school completion rates and lower scores on national tests such as NAPLAN and students who live in poverty also experience more social exclusion at school than their more advantaged peers. *“To reduce educational disadvantage, action is needed to reduce child poverty, which has remained stubbornly high since the early 2000s.”* Professor Gerry Redmond [The Conversation](#) 10/3/22.

The future: *“Experiencing just a single year of poverty during childhood is associated with poorer socio-economic outcomes in terms of educational attainment, labour market performance and even overall life satisfaction in early adulthood. Children from poor households are 3.3 times more likely to suffer adult poverty than those who grew up in never poor households.”* [Melbourne University, 2020](#)

We can all do something about it

“We need to make sure that every child gets the opportunity to be the best that they can be, because that helps, not just that individual, that’s the key to Australia as well. We need to be the smart country.”

[PM Anthony Albanese interview on 7.30, 23/6/22](#)

“The period during the Covid-19 pandemic when income support payments were lifted was hugely beneficial to children and their families. We saw less anxiety about whether families could meet their basic needs such as food, heating, and shelter. We saw reduced suicides as a result. Income support payments should be set at a level that supports individuals and families to live with dignity and meet their basic needs.”

[Statement from the AMA, 22/2/22](#)

See more at [Anti-Poverty Week](#), including [Fast Fact: Child and Family Poverty in Australia](#); [22/7/22 Women, Violence and Poverty Briefing](#) and [18/8/22 Child Support Briefing](#)

Contact us: apw@antipovertyweek.org.au