



ELECTION '25 COST OF LIVING + ECONOMIC RELIEF



Current Situation

- Over 3.7 million people in Australia are living under the poverty line of 50% of medium income
- 12% of Western Australians live in poverty, with a total of 94,000 children
- JobSeeker and other payments are well below the poverty line
- Cost of living and demand for emergency relief and food access has soared
- Increase in reliance on buy now pay later and credit cards
- Limited full-time entry level jobs and increasing gig economy

Proposed Changes

FEDERAL/STATE

- **State & Federal Minimum Wage** setting to be adequate to support a reasonable standard of living for working people and their families
- **Universal access to high quality early childhood education and care** with no out-of-pocket costs for the lowest income earners and prioritising accessibility in regional areas
- **Financial counselling & coaching**
 - specialist financial counsellors for family & domestic violence, mental health, gambling, & people exiting institutions.
 - Investment in financial wellbeing and prevention programs
- **Broadband to be regulated as an essential utility** and ensuring a low income product or concession

FEDERAL

- **JobSeeker and other income support rates raised** to at least \$80/day for singles and adjusted for other household types
- **Income thresholds increased** to allow people on income support payments to earn a modest amount before scaling back benefits
- **Social security waiting periods amended** to allow modest savings and a financial buffer while receiving income support payments.
- **Reform the employment services system:**
 - Abolish financial penalties for non-compliance
 - Remove activity requirements that impede a person's employability
 - Employment pathways that are personalised, flexible, & place-based e.g: [Hopscotch](#)
- **A measurable definition of poverty** with a statutory requirement to reduce poverty

STATE

- **Emergency relief** increased funding for food, fuel vouchers, rent relief, medical bill relief, family and domestic violence relief
- **Expand utility grants & concessions** to broaden eligibility access, increase grant limits, cover all outstanding debt, fund efficiency programs, & remove administration / transaction fees for low-income households
- **Transport concessions** extended from Age Pension recipients to all Health Care Card holders

Please share with your current [State MP](#) and [Federal MP](#) and other election candidates.