

# A FAIRER TAX AND WELFARE SYSTEM

- Lift between 193,000 and 834,000 people out of poverty by increasing:
  - JobSeeker by \$176 per fortnight (pf), \$249 pf or \$338 pf
  - Youth Allowance by \$149, \$211 or \$286 pf
  - Parenting Payment by \$167 pf, \$238 pf, or \$351 pf
  - Disability Support Pension and Carer Payments by \$69 pf or \$249 pf
  - Family Tax Benefit (A) by 20 per cent
  - Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 25 per cent (in addition to the 15 per cent increase in the 2023 Budget)
  - The tax-free threshold from \$18,200 to \$24,000
- Do this by:
  - dropping the stage 3 tax cuts
  - lowering the tax threshold for capital gains from 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent
  - restructuring the superannuation tax system, and
  - making moderate changes to personal income taxation thresholds.



Frederic Ozanam (1813-53)  
founder of St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia; recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and community; and pays its respect to elders past, present and emerging.

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia Inc.  
PO Box 243, Deakin West ACT 2600 [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au)

# LET'S BUILD A FAIRER AUSTRALIA!

JANUARY 2024



 St Vincent de Paul Society  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc. *good works*

## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

- Fund and commit to Closing the Gap targets by all Australian governments
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14 years of age
- Increase community-led programs and services that support justice reinvestment and keep children safe

## PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA

- Provide an adequate safety net for all asylum seekers and a fairer process for all affected by the unjust fast track process
- Resettle all people subject to offshore processing and move people held in PNG to Australia while they await resettlement
- Make detention a last resort (maximum of 90 days), and improve the living conditions of those that must be detained for security reasons
- Increase the minimum annual humanitarian intake to 27,000 by 2025-26, reform the family reunion process, increase the community support program to 10,000 (making it additional), and include refugees held in South-East Asian countries within this increased intake and
- Conduct a parliamentary inquiry into immigration detention both offshore and onshore starting in 2023

## SECURE WORK

- Implement the remaining Australia Government commitments to address wage suppression and undervalued jobs
- Implement the recommendations contained in the Select Committee's Final Report on Workforce Australia Employment Services (November 2023)
- Develop a detailed strategy to assist the long-term unemployed

## COMBATTING HOMELESSNESS, INCREASING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Address the shortage of social and affordable housing
- Review Commonwealth Rent Assistance and increase its funding base by 25 per cent
- Develop and fund policies and programs that improve energy efficiency in low-income households in the transition towards net zero emissions
- Implement more private market incentives such as a suitable replacement for the National Rental Affordability Scheme
- Implement the national minimum standards for renters (*A better deal for renters*)
- Reduce the capital gains tax discount from 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent
- Review the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, as recommended by the Productivity Commission, and ensure it complements the new National Housing and Homelessness Plan

- Waive the outstanding housing-related debts held by states and territories to the Australian Government

## INCOME SUPPORT, POVERTY AND DEBT - WHY AUSTRALIA NEEDS PROPER SAFETY NETS

- Halve child poverty by 2030
- Increase the base rate of working age payments to lift recipients out of poverty
- Index income support payments biannually in line with wage growth or CPI
- Increase the earnings threshold of income support recipients by \$150 a fortnight (to \$300)
- Expedite regulation of the Buy Now Pay Later Sector to protect people from predatory financial loans and products
- Implement a fairer assessment process for the Disability Support Pension

