

Analysis of Justice and Compassion policies against major parties' election platforms
REPORT CARD (April 2025)

NO	YES	PARTIAL

	GREENS	LNP	ALP
1. Supporting a Safety Net for All Australians			
Increase the base rate of working age payments ¹			
Index income support payments biannually in line with wage growth or CPI ²			
Increase the earnings threshold of income support recipients by \$150 a fortnight ³			
Increase access to medical bulk billing services ⁴			
Increase the base rate of family violence payments ⁵			
Implement the Select Committee's Final Report on Workforce Australia, especially to assist the underemployed and the long-term unemployed ⁶ ,			
2. Housing Security Across the Country			
Recognise housing as a human right and legislative the National Housing and Homelessness Plan ⁷			
Double the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) ⁸			
Reform taxes to incentivise the uses of long term vacant residential properties and land ⁹			
Increase needs-based funding of homelessness services and permanent supportive housing and client-led services ¹⁰			
Increase and review Commonwealth Rent Assistance ¹¹			
Fund and implement policies that improve energy efficiency in low-income households ¹²			
Support private market and institutional incentives to increase affordable housing ¹³			
Fund and legislative national minimum standards for renters (<i>A better deal for renters</i>) ¹⁴			
Reduce the capital gains tax discount on investment property (from 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent) and review negative gearing ¹⁵			
3. Meeting the Needs of First Nations Peoples			
Provide Commonwealth leadership to progress the Uluru Statement from the Heart ¹⁶			
Fund and commit to full implementation of Closing the Gap targets and Priority Reforms ¹⁷			
Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years of age to at least 14 years ¹⁸			
Fund and increase community-led programs to support justice reinvestment and keep children safe ¹⁹			
4. Rising to the Refugee Challenge			
Fund an adequate safety net for all asylum seekers and a fairer process for all affected by the fast-track process ²⁰			
Resettle all people still subject to offshore processing and move people held in PNG and Nauru to Australia while they await resettlement ²¹			

Increase the minimum annual humanitarian intake to at least 27,000 by 2027-28, reform the family reunion program and increase the community support program to 10,000 (also making it additional)²²



Note: The Society does not endorse any political party or candidate. The scores on the scorecard reflect the Society's independent and impartial assessment of the parties' policies against policies contained in Justice and Compassion. The assessment relies on, and is limited to, publicly available information and does not second-guess policy positions or fill in the gaps.

- ¹ The Albanese Government increased JobSeeker by \$40 per fortnight in May 2023. Single people aged over 55 years who have been on the payment for 9 or more continuous months received a \$92 increase to match the payment received by those aged 60 and over. Eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single) was expanded for single principal carers until their youngest child turns 14 years. The LNP election platform does not contain a specific policy on income support. The Greens' election platform commits to lowering the age for JobSeeker eligibility (from 21 to 18 years) and eliminating the Youth Allowance parental income test. They also call for a Poverty and Inequality Commission to be established. Greens' media releases support calls to raise income support above the poverty line but there is no specific recommendation in their platform to do so. The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee (EIAC) has recommended that JobSeeker and working age payments rise to 90 per cent of the Age Pension.
- ² The Albanese Government has implemented biannual increases of income support payments in line with CPI only, with no other change in policy. The LNP and Greens do not have a specific policy on this issue. The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee (EIAC) has recommended that indexation of working age payments be improved.
- ³ In November 2023, legislation was passed resulting in all new pensioners over Age Pension age receiving a one-off \$4,000 credit to their Work Bonus income bank. The maximum income bank balance was also permanently increased to \$11,800. The LNP commits to 'increasing the amount older Australians and veterans can work without reducing pension payments,' and has previously supported an increase to the JobSeeker threshold, but this is not in its election platform. The ALP has opposed increasing the threshold on the basis that it would encourage longer-term reliance on the payment. The Greens do not have a specific policy on this issue. The EIAC notes that any negative effect on incentives to move into employment from an increase in JobSeeker is likely to be small.
- ⁴ The Albanese Government's 2025 Budget includes an extra 50 bulk billed Urgent Care Clinics bringing the total to 137 Clinics (\$644M), \$7.9BN to increase bulk billed GP visits, increased funding of public hospitals (\$1.8BN) improved women's health and cheaper medicines (\$3.2BN). The LNP commits to \$9.4BN into health to match cheaper medicines (down to \$25), fund public hospitals and women's health and double mental health sessions (Dutton's Budget reply speech). The Greens commit to \$12.BN for bulk billed GP visits, 1,000 free healthcare clinics, \$30BN for public hospitals (over 10 years), adding dental into Medicare and providing access to universal mental health through Medicare.
- ⁵ Two payments – the Crisis Payment and the Leaving Violence Program – are available but both require improvements with respect to timeliness, payment levels, awareness of the payment and eligibility and assessment processes. The Albanese Government made the Leaving Violence Program permanent and ongoing. The LNP commits to extending emergency payments. The Greens commit to increasing funding of recovery services and raising the Escaping Violence Payment.
- ⁶ The Society supports recommendations by the Select Committee's Final Report on Workforce Australia Employment Services to end automated suspension of payments; overhaul employment services sector with the establishment of Employment Services Australia and an Employment Service Quality Commission; reform the mutual obligation framework; establish a national wage subsidy and work experience scheme for the long-term unemployed; increase employment and training of Services Australia staff and increase funding and use of specialist providers, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse service partners. The Society supports the recommendation that participation requirements be maintained but that the mutual obligation system be reformed, with individual tailoring of plans (new Participation and Jobs Plan), and Work for the Dole only used as a last resort. The Albanese Government has acknowledged that reform is necessary but only small steps were

taken in the 2024-25 Federal Budget, including improved safeguards and transparency, a new complaints mechanism and processes to better recognise individuals' circumstances through changes to mutual obligation rules. Further detail on the [plan for employment services reforms](#), including the phasing and priority for implementation, have not yet been released. The LNP does not have a specific policy on this issue. The Greens commit to banning private providers from the employment services sector and to abolishing all mutual obligations.

- ⁷ Australia ratified the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) almost 50 years ago which includes the right to adequate housing. The National Housing and Homelessness Plan should be legislated, and a Private Members Bill was before the last Parliament (Tink, 24 June 2024). The ALP, Greens and LNP do not have a specific policy on this issue.
- ⁸ The Albanese Government's Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) remains unchanged at \$10BN. The LNP commits to scrapping the HAFF. The Greens have no specific policy on the HAFF in their election platform. Housing wise, the ALP commits to boost prefabricated home construction, \$1.5BN for infrastructure (total \$4.5BN), and more funding for the Help to Buy scheme (\$6.3BN). The LNP commits to \$5BN in infrastructure, and first home buyers accessing up to \$50,000 in superannuation to purchase a property.
- ⁹ Given housing supply issues and the time required to increase housing stock, taxation arrangements should be reformed to bring underutilised land and housing to the market, including introducing a tax on long-term vacant residential properties and transitioning from stamp duty to a broad-based land tax. The ALP, Greens and LNP do not have a specific policy on this issue. The closest in intent is the ALP's and LNP's ban on foreign investors and temporary residents from buying existing homes.
- ¹⁰ The ALP and LNP do not have a specific policy on this issue in their election platforms. The Greens commit to ending homelessness by funding 50,000 ongoing supportive tenancies with wrap around support, building 40 new supportive accommodation buildings (\$5.2BN) and doubling housing and homelessness funding to the states (\$7.5BN).
- ¹¹ The Albanese Government increased CRA by 25 per cent in the 2023-24 & 2024-25 Budgets. The Society calls for further increases and supports the EIAC's recommendations that more must be done to address the long-term reduction in adequacy of the payment and better reflect rents currently paid. The ALP and LNP do not have a specific policy on this issue. The Greens have previously called for CRA to be doubled (by removing superannuation tax concessions above \$1.9BN, 3 April 2023) but CRA is not part of their election platform.
- ¹² The 2023 Budget included \$300 million for energy performance upgrades for social housing (to be matched by states and territories). A Household Energy Upgrades Fund was established (\$1BN). \$36.7 million was committed towards the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards program. A further \$500 million was committed to retrofit an additional 50,000 social housing properties with energy-efficient electric and solar upgrades. The Society calls on state and territory governments to match this funding and for similar solutions to be found for people in private rentals and low-income homeowners. This includes mandating energy performance standards for rental properties. In Oct23, all state and territory building Ministers agreed to seven-star energy ratings for all new residential builds. The LNP commits to freezing construction code changes for 10 years. The Greens commit to an electrification plan with various low interest loans available for households and small businesses to install eligible technologies, including storage (\$8.1BN). Election commitments have focussed on bill relief rather than further investment in energy efficiency. The ALP commits to \$140 rebate for household and small business energy bills. The LNP commits to reducing energy bills through cheaper gas (National Gas Plan) and nuclear power.
- ¹³ The Albanese Government announced a Housing Accord with incentives for superannuation funds and institutional investment in social and affordable housing. While a replacement for the National Rental Affordability Scheme has not been identified, other market incentives include increasing the government guaranteed liability cap of the National Housing and Finance Investment Corporation by \$2BN to \$7.5BN (thereby increasing low cost loans to community housing providers); expanding the eligibility of the Home Guarantee Scheme, Regional First Home Buyer Scheme and caps on the Help to Buy Scheme. In the 2023-24 Budget. Build to Rent tax concessions were refined and included increasing the capital works tax deduction (depreciation)

from 2.5 per cent to 4 per cent per year and reducing the final withholding tax rate on eligible fund payments from managed investment trust (MIT) investments from 30 per cent to 15 per cent. The ALP, Greens and LNP have no other specific policies on this issue.

- ¹⁴ In August 2023, National Cabinet agreed to A Better Deal for Renters to harmonise and strengthen renters' rights across Australia. The Society has signed on to National Shelter Australia's joint statement on priority areas for rental reform. These include better protections against no-cause evictions, stronger protections and fair limits on rent increases, basic energy efficiency standards and accessibility, better support for tenant self-advocacy, penalties for non-compliance, a landlord registration (or licensing) scheme, and access to free tenancy advice, assistance and advocacy. The Greens commit to an immediate rent freeze for two years, followed by increases capped at 2 per cent every two years and establishment of a National Renters Protection Authority with powers to issue spot fines and ban real estate agents (\$2.5BN). The ALP LNP do not have a specific policy on this issue in their election platforms.
- ¹⁵ Recent Parliamentary Budget Office figures found that total tax revenue foregone in the 2023-24 year due to negative gearing deductions and the capital gains tax discount on residential investment properties was \$10.92 billion. It is projected to increase to \$165 billion by 2034-35. Both should be reviewed to inform the much-needed debate on taxation reform and housing. For instance, a modest reduction in the capital gains tax discount from the current 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent would cover the costs of increasing Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 25 per cent. The Greens' election platform commits to scrapping negative gearing and the 50 per cent capital gains tax discount. The ALP and LNP do not have specific policies on these taxes.
- ¹⁶ The Referendum on The Voice occurred on 14 October 2023. ALP and LNP have no specific policies in their election platforms. The Greens commit to a National Truth and Justice Commission (truth, treaty and justice), native title reform and full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ¹⁷ The 2025 Closing the Gap report found that four targets are on track, a further six show improvement but are not on track, outcomes are worsening against four targets and the remaining four are not able to be assessed. The Productivity Commission has concluded that all governments have not taken meaningful action to meet their commitments. The Albanese Government committed \$2.4 BN over 5 years and \$4BN (jointly with NT Government for housing) (2024 Budget), \$1.9BN over 5 years (2023 Budget), \$424M to support the second Closing the Gap Implementation Plan (February 2023), and \$1.2 BN announced in October 2022. The 2025 Budget committed a further \$842.6M towards the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment. The LNP commits to a full audit of all spending on Indigenous programs, a Royal Commission into sexual abuse in Indigenous communities, reintroduction of the cashless debit, more housing, practical solution to improve health outcomes and a referendum on Indigenous recognition in the constitution but only if there is bipartisan support.
- ¹⁸ The Standing Council of Attorneys-General has formed an Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group. Communiques are accessible [here](#). The ACT and Tasmania have committed to lifting the age to 14 years. Victoria's Cabinet had previously agreed to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years but changed this recently to 12 years. The newly elected Queensland Government has committed to strengthening youth justice laws by repealing detention as a last resort and enacting 'adult crime, adult time'. The newly elected Northern Territory Government rescinded recent changes made in August 2023 to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years. The National Children's Commissioner has also called for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised, along with other recommendations contained in [Help Way Earlier! \(2024\)](#). The Society also supports the [Justice Reform Initiative](#). The ALP, Greens and LNP have no specific policies on this issue in their election platforms. However, the LNP has committed to boosting law and order in Indigenous communities.
- ¹⁹ The Albanese Government committed \$69 million over four years to establish a National Justice Reinvestment Program to support up to 30 communities to establish locally tailored justice reinvestment initiatives. The Society fully supports the ongoing commitment of \$20 million per year, from 2026-27. The ALP, Greens and LNP have no specific policies on this issue.
- ²⁰ The Status Resolution Support Service has been cut 93 per cent since 2015-16 (from \$300M to \$20M) due to restricted eligibility criteria, reducing the number of recipients from 13,000 to around 1,500. Costs have been shifted from the Commonwealth to state and territory governments and the not-for-

profit sector. The 2025 Budget made no provisions to increase work rights, study rights or access to mainstream social support, including Medicare. The Albanese Government has also chosen not to scrap the fast-track process, with thousands of people seeking asylum still suffering under this process. However, the Immigration Assessment Authority was abolished when the Administrative Appeals Tribunal was replaced by the Administrative Review Tribunal on 14 October 2024 (\$1BN over five years), which may deliver fairer outcomes. The ALP and LNP have no specific policies on this issue in their election platforms, although the LNP commits to strengthening detention laws. The Greens do not include a specific policy position on this issue in their election platform, but they have previously called for an end to fast track processing and a review of all fast track decision ([2019](#)). In their 2024 Budget response, the Greens also criticised budget cuts for people seeking asylum.

- ²¹ The Albanese Government considers it is no longer responsible for the people remaining in PNG, although it has negotiated a new agreement which will force PNG asylum seeker to cover all living expenses (accommodation, utilities, food and healthcare) with a single allowance. The ALP, Greens and LNP have no specific policies on this issue in their election platforms. However, Senator Shoebridge (Greens) has obtained details of the new agreement and recently met with the refugees and found the situation ‘very troubling...and that this new deal is not nearly enough to cover medication, safe accommodation and everything else’.
- ²² The Albanese Government made an initial increase of the Refugee and Humanitarian Program in 2023-24 to 20,000 places. The ALP and LNP have no specific policies on this issue in their election platforms. The Greens commit to faster, fairer and more affordable family reunions by capping wait times, removing the balance of family test and broadening the definition of family and reducing and simplifying visa costs.