

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.



Frédéric 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.

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LET'S BUILD A FAIRER AUSTRALIA!

DECEMBER 2024



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

MEETING THE NEEDS OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

- Provide Commonwealth leadership to progress the Uluru Statement from the Heart agenda
- Fund and commit to full implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap targets, particularly bringing its Priority Reforms to life by all Australian governments
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years of age
- Fund and increase community-led programs and services that support justice reinvestment and keep children safe.

INCOME SUPPORT, POVERTY AND DEBT

- Define, monitor and halve child poverty by 2030
- Enact a National Children's Act, appoint a Cabinet Minister for Children and establish a Ministerial Council for Child Wellbeing
- 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)
- Increase access to medical bulk billing services
- Increase the base rate of family and domestic violence payments
- Review Buy Now Pay Later legislation to assess its effectiveness
- Implement fairer eligibility criteria and assessment processes for the Disability Support Pension.

HOUSING SECURITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- Recognise housing as a human right and legislate the National Housing and Homelessness Plan
- Double the Housing Australia Future Fund
- Reform taxes to incentivise the use of long-term vacant residential properties and land
- Increase needs-based funding for homelessness services and permanent supportive housing including client-led support services
- Increase funding of Commonwealth Rent Assistance and review the program
- Fund and implement policies that improve energy efficiency in low-income households
- Increase private and institutional incentives to increase affordable housing
- Fund and legislate the implementation of national minimum standards for renters (A better deal for renters)
- Reduce the capital gains tax discount on investment property (from 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent) and review negative gearing.

GAMBLING REFORM

- Urgently implement all 31 recommendations in You win some, you lose more. In particular:
 - ban online gambling inducements and advertising
 - appoint a single Government Minister responsible for online gambling harm reduction supported by national regulation, as well as a national online gambling regulator, an ombudsman, and a national strategy

- implement a harm reduction levy on Wagering Service Providers, develop a public education campaign and improve data collection.

RISING TO THE REFUGEE CHALLENGE

- 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 and Nauru 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 at least 27,000 by 2027-28, reform the family reunion process, increase the community support program to 10,000 (making it additional), and accept refugees held in South-East Asian countries within this increased intake
- Hold a Royal Commission into immigration detention, both offshore and onshore.

SECURE WORK

- Continue the commitment 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.