

**20
19**

Federal Election RAISE YOUR VOICE

Getting serious about poverty

There are currently more than 3 million Australians living in poverty, and 739,000 of them are children.

People relying on Newstart, Youth Allowance and other related social security payments are experiencing the highest rates of poverty of any group. People in low paid or insecure work comprise 38% of the 3 million people living in poverty.

Increasing Newstart and Youth Allowance would be the single most important step to address current poverty levels among Australians. Deloitte Access Economics has found that it would boost local economies and employment, delivering benefits across the whole economy.

Not only do these social security payments need an immediate boost, it's important that they are set by an independent body. Baptist Care Australia supports establishing a new statutory authority to set social security payments at a level that maintains a basic healthy standard of living.

People living in poverty are experiencing increasing difficulties affording nutritious food, and demand for food support services is growing. Ongoing funding for food relief programs is essential to ensure families can survive when incomes are too low to provide for their needs.

Another key stepping stone for people transitioning out of poverty is safe, secure and affordable housing. The Everybody's Home campaign prioritises an increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance and the construction of 500,000 new affordable and social rental dwellings to address the housing needs of people on the lowest incomes.

To address poverty in Australia, income support payments must be adequate, housing affordable, and there must be ways for people to access the education, jobs and training that will lead them out of poverty.

We particularly want to see a substantial increase to Newstart and Youth Allowance to help meet the needs of people on the lowest incomes, and provide enough support to help them move out of poverty.

About us

Baptist Care Australia works to bring equality and opportunity to Australian communities, advocating nationally on issues such as homelessness, aged care and domestic violence. We represent Baptist community service organisations and their clients in the national policy debate.

A core principle in our work is to make sure that the interests and voices of marginalised people are heard when decisions are made that affect them.

Baptist Care Australia [member organisations](#) are hard at work every day to build strong communities across Australia. From aged care to counselling, social housing to caring for children and young people, our members help people get back on their feet after hard times, or live independently with the right support. Members employ more than 9000 staff, work with 2500 volunteers and have an annual turnover of \$700 million.

© Baptist Care Australia 2019

T 02 6195 3178

E info@baptistcareaustralia.org.au

PO Box 468

Fyshwick ACT 2909

baptistcareaustralia.org.au

ABN 58 079 868 116 | ACN 079 868 116



BAPTIST CARE
AUSTRALIA A voice
for hope

20
19 Federal Election
RAISE YOUR VOICE