

We urge all of our elected representatives in Federal Parliament to:

1. Reaffirm commitment to a robust social safety net to protect people from poverty in the event that they are unable to support themselves due to unemployment, caring responsibilities, disability, incapacity or other unforeseen circumstances.
2. Maintain the principle of income support for all, in return for reasonable efforts to look for work, including:
 - 2.1. Reject measures to deny income support for six months of the year to people under 30 who are genuinely looking for work, recognising that this cut would lead to a huge increase in poverty and homelessness among our youth and young adults.
 - 2.2. Reject the transfer of 22-24 year olds from the Newstart payment (\$255 p.wk) on to the lower Youth Allowance (\$207 p.wk) which is unsustainable for those living out of home.
3. Recognise society's responsibility to care for our vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups.
 - 3.1. Recognise that increasing the age of eligibility for the Aged Pension from 67 to 70 years, *without an increase in the rate of Newstart*, will increase poverty among older Australians.
 - 3.2. Reject the change proposed for Pension increases to be indexed to the CPI instead of wages growth (currently), as this will lead to pensioners falling even further behind community living standards (impacting Aged Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Parenting Payment Single, and Veterans Pensions).
 - 3.3. Reject the cuts to Family Tax Benefit B for low income families, including sole parent families, at a time when we know that child poverty in sole parent families is increasing.
4. Reverse the decision to freeze Australia's foreign aid commitment and to abandon Australia's commitment of 0.5% of GNI for foreign aid.
5. We support Budget reforms which appropriately target those with capacity to pay, including:
 - 5.1. Freezing the asset test cut off for the Age Pension, which would only affect seniors with assets (excluding the family home) of more than one million dollars.
 - 5.2. Lowering the eligibility for Family Tax Benefit B to cut off at incomes of \$100,000p.a
 - 5.3. We encourage the government to seriously consider reform of superannuation tax concessions, housing tax concessions, and use of private trusts.

We urge our Baptist Churches to:

- engage with their local Members of Parliament to advocate for a fairer distribution of cuts and resources.
- support the campaigns of our aid agencies eg www.baptistworldaid.org.au/brokenpromises
- follow the response by the community services sector in the statement made by the Australian Council of Social Services http://acoss.org.au/take_action/federal_budget_2014-15/joint_sector_statement_on_budget_social_security_changes/
Signatories include Bapcare and Baptist Care Australia (BCA).
- continue to find creative ways to respond as churches, to those in greatest need.

Tabled at BUV Delegates Dinner 10.10.14

Moved:

Seconded:

Carried: / /