



**Baptist Union**  
of Victoria



# october2021

# members' pack

together *on mission*

You are invited to attend our BUW October 2021 Online Members' Meeting.

Please visit [buv.com.au/membersdinner](https://buv.com.au/membersdinner) to register

# INFORMATION PACK

## BUV Members' Meeting

15 October 2021

Dear Member of Assembly,

We welcome you as an Ordained BUV Minister or nominated Delegate of your Baptist Church, Faith Community, or Agency, to participate in our October 2021 Members' Meeting. We prioritise the coming together in association to share and discern God's movement and will amongst us as Baptists in Victoria. Thank you for choosing to invest yourself and your time in participating and representing others at this Members' Meeting.

We recognise that there is time spent in preparation, reading and praying over the papers, and engaging with your church community in discussing questions and issues prior to the meeting. It takes effort, but we believe that as we see things move and change in response to our collective discernment, we can move forward together in our mission to advance the Kingdom of God.

This year due to the unstable nature of COVID restrictions, we have made the decision not to meet together in person. Therefore, the meeting will take place using video conferencing. You are invited to join the meeting that will be held at 7pm on Friday 15th October. You will still need to register for the event as we are required to check eligibility for voting.

Voting will be undertaken in real time during the meeting – therefore, if you intend to vote, it is important that you are connected to the online meeting from 7pm -8pm. Once the voting is closed, the link contained in the email from True Vote for voting will no longer be active, True Vote will generate the vote report and will send to our BUV appointed scrutineers. Voting results will be declared at the end of the meeting, emailed to all members of Assembly at the close of the meeting and published in the BUV Bulletin on Wednesday 20th October, 2021.

Further information on the Voting process can be found here – <https://truevote.com.au/Home/FAQ>

**Please read your Members Pack carefully in advance of the meeting – as this is a shorter online meeting with real time voting, any issues or questions in relation to the voting should be submitted in writing prior to the meeting to the Union Secretary at [debbie.uy@buv.com.au](mailto:debbie.uy@buv.com.au) by 5pm Wednesday, 13th October.**

*\*Alternative voting can be organised. Please note - only applies to those with no email address. Please call the BUV office on (03) 9880 6100 by 2nd October.*

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## MEMBERS' MEETING REGISTRATION

It is imperative that you register if you are planning to vote. There will be no charge for attending the meeting. One email address is required per person for voting purposes. If there is more than 1 person in your household that is eligible to vote and only 1 email address, please contact [events@buv.com.au](mailto:events@buv.com.au) to organise alternative voting method for secondary voter prior to Monday 11th October.

Register at [buv.com.au/membersdinner](https://buv.com.au/membersdinner)

Registrations close on Monday 11th October, 2021

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**Members' Meeting Proudly Supported By:**



# MEETING PROGRAM

**Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country**

**Worship**

**Bible reading & Opening prayer**

**Assembly meeting and voting summary**

2021 Financials & 2021 Budget Overview

Appointments:

- Union Council Member reappointment - Jo-Anne Bradshaw
- Union Council Member reappointment - Fiona Hall
- Honorary Legal Advisor appointment - Paul Holdway
- Baptcare CEO reappointment - Graham Dangerfield

**Recognition and welcome of new BUV Communities of Faith**

**Prayer for our 2021 Ordinands and welcome Ordination transfers**

**BUV 2022 Strategic Direction**

**Panel discussion topic: Welcoming communities - for those with insecure housing or homelessness**

**Declaration of voting results**

**Thanks and close meeting**

# BUSINESS PAPERS

## 2022 STIPEND AND SUPERANNUATION

### RECOMMENDED 2022 STIPEND

**Voting by ballot:** Simple majority required.

**Resolution:** The BUV recommendation is that Pastoral Stipend be based on the average change in CPI and WPI, resulting in an increase of \$19 per week in 2022.

*Note: If small increases are not factored in each year, there will be a larger rise required at a future date, which may be more difficult for churches to manage financially.*

WEEKLY STIPEND	2021	Increase	2022
Cash (inc. Tax Exempt Benefits)	\$1,240	2.75% <sup>#</sup>	\$1,274
Cash or Manse Allocation (Tax Exempt Benefit)	\$410		\$395*
	\$1,650	1.15%	\$1,669

<sup>#</sup> Average of CPI: 3.8% and WPI: 1.7%

\* Notional weekly rental amount has declined to \$395 in 2021 from \$410 in 2020

To find out more about Stipend Guidelines

head to [www.buv.com.au/resources/stipends](http://www.buv.com.au/resources/stipends)

### WEEKLY SUPERANNUATION

\$206.98	\$208
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The superannuation is calculated based on the commercial equivalent salary (10.0% on \$2,079.99)

### THE ALL GROUPS CPI

3.8% increase through the year to the June quarter 2021.

Retrieved 19 August 2021 from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0>

### WAGE PRICE INDEX

The trend index which is usually used as the basis for this measure has been suspended due to Covid-19. The seasonally adjusted figure for the whole of Australia for the year to June quarter 2021 for all employee jobs in Australia was 1.7%. In the past the seasonally adjusted figure has not deviated significantly from the trend figure so for this year again the seasonally adjusted figure will be used.

Retrieved on 19 August 2021 from:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6345.0>



## MEDIAN RENT

Median Rent at 31 March 2021

### March quarter 2021

### Median weekly rent

Melbourne	\$400
Regional Victoria	\$350
Victoria	\$395

BUV has adopted the policy to use the Victoria Median weekly rent.

Retrieved on 19 August 2021 from:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/rental-report>

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP FEE

Church Income Contribution

\$0-\$85,800\* 2.75% of Income (Minimum: \$150)

\$85,801+ 3.75% of Income (Maximum: \$48,298)\*\*

\*2021 Weekly Stipend: \$1,650 (\$85,800 per annum)

## PROPOSED 2022 MEMBERSHIP FEE

**Resolution:** The BUV recommendation is that the 2022 Church Membership fee be structured as follows:

Church Income Contribution

\$0-\$86,788\* 2.75% of Income (Minimum: \$150)

\$86,789+ 3.75% of Income (Maximum: \$48,853)\*\*

\* 2022 Weekly Stipend: \$1,669 (\$86,788 per annum)

\*\* \$48,298 (2021 Limit) + 2022 Stipend Increase of 1.15%

# BUSINESS PAPERS

## Union Council Reappointment

### UNION COUNCIL MEMBER

#### **Jo-Anne Bradshaw**

BA GradDipVET MEd CAHRI GAICD



**Resolution:** That Assembly reappoint Jo-Anne Bradshaw as a member of the Union Council of the Baptist Union of Victoria for a period of 12 months from 15 October 2021.

**Nominated by:** Now and Not Yet Community

**Voting by ballot:** Simple majority required.

Jo Bradshaw has been a member of Union Council since October 2012 and is the current longest serving member. She is the current Chair and has served in this role since 2015. She also chairs the Nominations Committee and Council Development Committee.

Jo is a Human Resources professional with over 25 years' experience in leadership development, performance management, talent management, organisational culture and climate, skills training and managing both learning and development and generalist HR functions.

Jo serves on the Boards of Carey Baptist Grammar School and Surrey Hills Baptist Early Learning Centre. She provides consulting support to both Baptist Agencies and Baptist churches. She has participated in the selection panels for the Principal appointments at Kilvington, Carey and Whitley.

Jo has been actively involved in Baptist churches her whole life, coming from a rich heritage of Baptist families. She is the granddaughter of Baptist Minister the late Rev Arnold Moore and the daughter of the late Boyne Alley a previous long serving Chair of BUV Executive Council. She is married to Rev Derek Bradshaw, who established the social enterprise church Now and Not Yet in Warrandyte where they both currently serve. They have been married 27 years and have four children.

***"I am honoured to have served the Baptist Union as a member of Union Council for the past 9 years. I would love the opportunity to serve for a final year. There is still so much to be done as we live out the gospel in our communities. Working together we can better serve our communities and live out the nature of the Kingdom of God here in Victoria and beyond."***

# BUSINESS PAPERS

## Union Council Reappointment

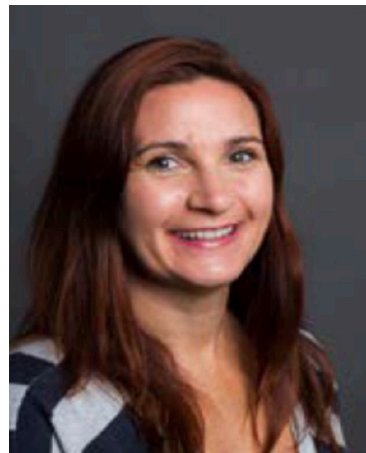
### UNION COUNCIL MEMBER

#### **Fiona Hall**

**Resolution:** That Assembly appoint Fiona Hall as a member of the Union Council of the Baptist Union of Victoria for a period of 3 years from 15 October 2021.

**Nominated by:** Crossway Baptist Church

**Voting by ballot:** Simple majority required.



Fiona has been a member of Union Council since 2015 and is a member of the Constitutional Review Committee. Fiona is currently the CEO of Crossway Lifecare, after 4 years serving as Director of Strategic Relationships at Empart Australia. She also plays an active role in the Crossway Alpha team and was previously the Chaplain for the Melbourne Rebels Rugby Union Team. Fiona trained as an accountant with Ernst and Young in London. She is a qualified adult educator and has also held roles as an event and customer services manager and as a Youth Pastor.

# BUSINESS PAPERS

## Union Council Appointment HONORARY LEGAL ADVISOR

### **Paul Holdway**

*BA (Hons), LLB, B.Theol – Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria & the High Court of Australia*

**Resolution:** That Paul Holdway be appointed as BUV Honorary Legal Advisor for a period of 12 months from 15th October 2021

**Nominated by:** Union Council

**Voting by ballot:** Simple majority required.



Paul is a Lawyer with almost 30 years' experience. He has been a Principal of Lewis Holdway Lawyers in Melbourne since 1999. He is a lifelong Baptist with time at North Carlton, Heathmont, Brunswick & South Yarra before the last 5 years at Sanctuary in Warrnambool. Paul has a Theology Degree from Whitley College with majors in Systematic Theology and Pastoral Care. His main legal work is in resolving disputes and institutional abuse cases. In 2010 he received the Law Institute of Victoria President's Award for Access to Justice.



# BUSINESS PAPERS

## CEO, BAPTCARE

### **Graham Dangerfield**

BBus(Acc)(Econ), CPA, GAICD

**Resolution:** That Assembly reappoint Graham Dangerfield as CEO of Baptistcare

**Nominated by:** Union Council

**Voting by ballot:** Two-thirds majority required.



Graham Dangerfield has been Chief Executive Officer of Baptistcare since October 2012, where he finds much satisfaction in his role to champion Baptistcare's mission to 'Partner for fullness of life'. Baptistcare is the welfare agency of the Baptist Union of Victoria, offering community services across Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia as a response to God's call to love our neighbours.

Graham is a highly motivated and committed person who is dedicated to excellence in all aspects of working life. He is driven by his belief in the unique value of each person, and a passion for social enterprise.

Prior to Baptistcare, Graham had over 20 years' experience in leadership and business across various industries, both for-profit and not-for-profit. Graham currently engages with various community organisations, is CEO of Baptistcare Affordable Housing, is on the board of Baptistcare Care Australia (previously Chair) and is a Board Director for the national Aged Care Workforce Industry Council.

Graham has a long involvement in the Baptist heritage, growing up as a 'Pastor's Kid' with his father, Richard Dangerfield, a Baptist Minister. Graham is now actively involved in his local church, where he attends with his wife Gillian and three children.

# RECOGNITION & WELCOMES

The BUV has welcomed the following new Faith Communities and Constituent Churches since our last Gathering in May 2021.

## **NEW CONSTITUENT CHURCHES**

Falam Baptist Church

Werribee Karen Baptist Church

Melbourne Siyin Burmese Mission Church

Melbourne Agape Baptist Church

Shepparton Chinese Christian Fellowship Inc

## **NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Rock City Church

## **NEW MICRO CHURCHES**

Lydias Table

# 2021 ORDINATION

It is unlikely, due to COVID-19 restrictions, that we will be able to gather to celebrate the ordination of 15 candidates in October this year. We have made the decision to postpone the 2021 BUV Ordination Service to an appropriate date early in 2022.

The candidates were introduced at the May 2021 Members Dinner and we are excited to pray for them tonight at our Members Meeting.

2021 Ordination candidates are:

- **Than Zuala Khomun** Falam Baptist Church Melbourne Inc
- **Cameron Healey** Albert Park Baptist Church
- **Norman Chan** Shepparton Chinese Christian Fellowship
- **Byungsuk (Noah) Lee** Mill Park Baptist Church
- **Ghay Moo Moo** Kangaroo Flat Karen Baptist Church
- **David van Wynen** Point Cook Community Baptist Church
- **Deborah Storie** East Doncaster Baptist Church
- **Simon Burnett** Kyneton Baptist Church
- **Lian Hlun Zakulh** Lutuv Baptist Church
- **James Wakow Kun** Doveton Baptist Church
- **Jared McLeod** Manifold Heights Baptist Church
- **Toli Morgan** Eastern Hills Community Church
- **Siang Nawl Thlaceu** Melbourne Immanuel Baptist Church
- **Toby Baxter** Crossway Baptist Church
- **Lance Blythe** NewHope Baptist Church

You can watch all of the ordination candidates 'Journeys to Ordination' by clicking on this [link](https://shorturl.at/itxUY) ([shorturl.at/itxUY](https://shorturl.at/itxUY).)

## ORDINATION TRANSFERS

We also welcome and celebrate the following Pastors who have transferred their Ordination credentials to the Baptist Union of Victoria this year:

- Segal Penu – from AOG USA
- Joshua Teo – from Full Gospel Churches of Australia
- Matt Jones – from Churches of Christ Australia
- Thang En Hen – from Lutuv Baptist Churches Myanmar
- Paul Crothers – from Churches of Christ Australia

# 2022 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The BUV Support Hub strategic focus areas remain the same for 2022.

## Strategic Focus Areas

With Mission at the centre, our plans are developed around **four Strategic Focus Areas**, through the **Innovation, Cultural, Digital and Younger Demographic Lenses**.



- **Cultural lens** - extended to be interpreted in a broader sense (ethnicity, church size, geographic location – ie regional, country, metro)
- **Digital lens** - covers both hybrid and digital church models, as well as utilising all digital platforms that make our BUV services and resources more accessible

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The specific strategic priorities for 2022 relating to the goals and strategic focus areas have been determined - see following pages for BUV Support Hub Strategy.

*Note: these are the specific priorities that are relevant for 2022 – all the other work of the BUV Support Hub continues even though they're not stated here.*

### BUV SUPPORT HUB STAFF UPDATE

No changes to staff.



We are the support hub for a culturally diverse Union of Baptist churches, faith and missional communities, agencies and affiliates



## VISION

To be a union of flourishing churches with Christlike followers, that redeems society



## MISSION

To encourage, equip & empower our local churches to advance God's Kingdom

## STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

With Mission at the centre, our plans are developed around **four Strategic Focus Areas**, through the **Innovation, Cultural, Digital and Younger Demographic Lenses**.



together *on* mission



**Baptist Union**  
of Victoria

# 2022

## BUV SUPPORT HUB STRATEGIC PLAN

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

#### MISSION

**Support churches to participate in a shared vision for mission**

- Foster the creation of 100 communities of faith by 2024
- Inspire missional imagination and practice through shared stories
- Provide best practice missional training
- Equip and mobilise evangelists
- Encourage our churches to be a blessing in their neighbourhoods and communities
- Advocate for love, justice and mercy in our society

#### LEADERSHIP

**Develop the capacity of people to lead flourishing churches**

- Introduce a system of professional supervision for pastors
- Encourage and support churches to intentionally develop leaders
- Encourage collaborative leadership
- Promote gender equality
- Raise the cultural intelligence of leaders
- Increase the pool of interim pastors
- Equip church leaders to discern the mind of Christ, personally and congregationally

#### RELATIONSHIP

**Encourage churches to support, pray for, collaborate, and pool resources for shared mission**

- Explore and encourage intercultural engagement and inclusion
- Highlight the significance and explore the implications of Baptist identity across the diversity of our Union
- Encourage groups of local churches to explore collaboration and synergies
- Facilitate the sharing of strengths and giftedness between churches

#### HEALTH

**Provide effective processes to support our churches to be flourishing**

- Build on the Flourishing Churches survey/assessment tool
- Resource our churches around spiritual disciplines and reflective practices
- Implement intervention processes for declining churches as directed by Assembly
- Support churches with wise and faithful stewardship
- Help churches clarify a shared understanding of vision and purpose

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# PANEL TOPIC

## WELCOMING COMMUNITIES — FOR THOSE WITH INSECURE HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

In May of this year, we discussed the topic of Welcoming Communities – and focussed in particular on ‘Who is my Neighbour?’

This October, we are continuing the topic of Welcoming Communities, focussing on the aspect of hope for people experiencing insecure housing or homelessness in our communities. A panel discussion will take place as part of our meeting. Panel members are:

- **Rev Daniel Bullock** – DOMM BUV, Panel facilitator
- **Robina Bradley** – Chair, Baptcare and CEO at St Mary’s House of Welcome
- **Cliff Barclay** – Head of Housing & Homelessness, Baptcare
- **Rev Katrina Lambert** – Associate Pastor of NewHope Baptist Church & NewHope Community Care Operations Manager
- **Mark Wilkinson-Hayes** – Westgate Baptist Community Member and Cooperative Development Coordinator, Common Equity Housing Ltd

As we cannot gather for corporate discernment and discussion, we encourage your church to have a discussion about this topic using the information contained in this pack, the local church forum guide. See Appendix 1. Feedback will be collated by the BUV Support Hub regarding bringing back to the May 2022 Gathering.

### REFLECTION - HOMELESSNESS

By Rev Katrina Lambert

The last year has changed our relationship with our homes. For some, homes have become safe havens in a time of crisis, school classrooms, workplaces and the walls within which we are ‘locked down.’ For others, homes have become places where we’ve experienced increased fragility, tension, discord and a lack of safety. We’ve deepened our understanding of the gifts and limits of our homes as the centre of our emotional and social needs.

It’s been generations since the home was so central to our lives.

The home of God is a significant theme in the Bible. The scriptures are filled with stories and images about where and with whom God chooses to make a home. It’s the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, the Temple in Jerusalem, the church as the household of God and our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

God is a homemaker.

The Psalmist writes:

*“Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.*

*God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.” (Psalm 68.5-6)*

If we are to reflect the God we worship, we must do what God does. God parents the parentless and welcomes those with no societal protection into God's home - and we must do the same. God gives the desolate and despairing a place to live - and we must do likewise.

This is part of the work God is giving us in making visible, available and effective in the world, God's presence and love. We are to be homemakers just like our homemaking God. This is how the word becomes flesh.

During COVID many people sleeping rough have been put up in hotels due to increased government funding. There are positive stories emerging of this accommodation being a stable place on which people have been able to build significant change. There are also less positive stories about how this environment has exacerbated underlying issues like mental ill-health and addiction for some people.

The issue of homelessness is about physical places. People need houses to live in but this is just the minimum. What people really need are places to live with safety, dignity, stability and sense of control over their circumstances.

When we think about responding to homelessness our thoughts often travel in two directions; what we can do personally and how the system can be changed. This thinking easily leads to giving up. Because most of us can't add another person to our household and we wouldn't know where to begin in influencing the systemic issues.

**But what if our response was grounded in God's call for the church to be the household of God?**

**What would that look like for you?**

**How might your church create safe places of dignity and wholeness for the parentless, the unprotected, the desolate and despairing?**

As I have sat with homeless people over the last year, what they have cried out for more than a place to sleep is hope. Hope is something the church knows a great deal about. The primary thing we know about hope is that hope comes to us in the form of a person, Jesus who enfolds us into a relationship.

**How might we form relationships in our neighbourhoods that allow the hope at the heart of the household of God to home the homeless?**

## **SUPPORTING RESOURCES/DOCUMENTS**

- Appendix 2 – [Baptcare Houses of Hope invitation to support](#)
- Appendix 3 – Justice 2021 Report for CONVERGE by Australian Baptist Ministries
- [Maroondah Churches - Winter Shelter](#)
- [Whitehorse Churches Care - Winter Shelter](#)



# APPENDIX 1

## LOCAL CHURCH FORUM GUIDE

If you would like to continue the discussion from the panel at your church you may like to hold a local church forum via Zoom or when in-person gatherings return.

1. Break your church / group up into small groups or Zoom break out rooms, ideally in a way that moves people outside of their usual network - this facilitates hearing diverse views rather than groups pushing a particular agenda (one way of doing this is to allocate groups based on which month of the year participants were born).
2. Appoint a church leader to act as facilitator of each group – provide them with the facilitator guidelines– see following page.
3. Have each group appoint a scribe.
4. Invite them to start with reading together a short passage of Scripture that is relevant to the topic. Ask them to note any verse or phrase that particularly caught their attention. Each person shares this with the group. The scribe should note if there was any theme or themes that seemed particularly prominent. Could this be what the Spirit is saying to their church on this issue?
5. Each group is invited to share its feedback with the wider group. Do we see any commonality in what emerged from the various groups?
6. Show the Panel video - this will be available on the website after the Members' Meeting.
7. Discuss what they heard from the panel and in reading Katrina's reflection. Was there anything they consider to be particularly important or helpful to note? How did they feel about what was said? What do they think about what this might mean for their church? Is there something they or their church might do in response to this issue and what the Spirit is saying? (NOTE the heart, head and hand dimensions.)
8. Share this with the whole group and identify what is common (i.e. shared by a several groups) or 'cool' (something that only one or a few shared, but which grabbed the interest of the whole – we wish we had said this).
9. Leaders could let people know what the next step is – i.e. go away and think about what can be done to implement it.
10. In larger gatherings, it may be more difficult to run the plenary sharing, so the feedback would simply be gathered and leaders would do the processing/discerning part.

## FACILITATOR GUIDELINES

We appreciate your assistance in leading conversations with other members at your table or in your break-out room. To help you feel confident in facilitating the conversations, we are providing you with some background information below:

1. Please spend some time in preparation reading, praying and familiarising yourself with the contents of the Members' Pack attached. The table discussions for the evening will address only one key topic:  
Welcoming Communities - for those who experience insecure housing or homelessness
2. Please ensure all members have read the devotion relating to the panel discussion
3. Please appoint a scribe to capture the notes from the discussion so that you are free to facilitate.
4. There will be key times we would like you to facilitate connectedness and discussion at your table. On arrival or at the commencement of break out sessions, please ensure everyone is introduced and knows which churches are represented at your table. It is ideal to have people who don't usually group together with no more than 8 members on a table or break out as we would like to have robust discussion.

Thank you in anticipation of the important role you will be playing in this discussion – particularly in the skill you bring to drawing out those reticent to talk and managing those keen to be heard. We celebrate the diversity of gender, culture and opinion in our churches. We recognise that balancing the discussion from all these angles this is not always an easy task, and we come to our time of interaction and discernment together prayerfully, and in faith that God will move amongst us and guide us.

# APPENDIX 2

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT BAPTCARE HOUSES OF HOPE

### Houses of Hope

#### Opportunities to support Baptistcare Houses of Hope

**“They shall be to you as citizens.”** – Ezekiel 47:22

In this passage of Scripture, God instructs his people that refugees be accepted and afforded the same foundations of economic security and treated as equals. In the parable of The Good Samaritan, who came to the aid of someone not from his own tribe, but a stranger in need – Jesus echoes this command.

There are at least 5,500 people seeking asylum in the community in Victoria\*. Many are not eligible for income support or any government funding. Many find themselves homeless.

In partnership with donors and supporters, Baptistcare has provided transition housing and support to people seeking asylum through the Sanctuary program since 2008. In 2015, community-based housing was added in partnership with churches. Since their inception, we have worked alongside 600 men, women and children.

Today, we partner with seven churches and more than 30 volunteers to provide transitional housing, casework and neighbourly support in 16 Houses of Hope.

Baptistcare receives no government funding for this service. But we need help to continue this work.

We have invested our heart, soul and funds into Sanctuary and Houses of Hope for the last 14 years. Unfortunately, we find ourselves unable to continue to support the Preston rooming house. It is with heavy hearts that we will close it in February 2022.

We remain committed to people who came to Australia seeking refuge. Our work in the Brunswick rooming house and Houses of Hope which support around 80 men, women and children will continue.

But we cannot do it alone. We need help from partners like you.

#### About Houses of Hope

Community supported housing is a great way to have more people involved in supporting the individuals and families at risk.

Partner churches lease their property to Baptistcare at low or no rent, or together with other churches commit to financially supporting a House of Hope in their local area.

In turn, Baptistcare provides housing, utilities subsidy and food relief to people seeking asylum. Our case workers provide formal case work support, train and support church volunteers. Church volunteers provide neighbourly support such as helping asylum seekers to learn how to access local services, take public transport and learn to navigate life in Australia.

#### Why partner with Baptistcare?

*“Getting involved in a House of Hope is an incredibly enriching experience. You get to travel alongside people who are struggling to survive in Australia. You’re meeting real needs. And you will grow as a church.”*

– Bernie Pigdon, Ashburton Baptist

*“It has been an incredibly positive experience for the church. It is a privilege to be able to offer something small yet practical. It gives us an opportunity to put our faith into action. Houses of Hope allowed us to take action in a meaningful way and be well supported in doing that.”*

– Teash Taylor, St Kilda & Elsternwick Baptist

#### How can you help?



DONATION

Ongoing or one-off donation will help us pay the rent, utilities subsidies, food relief and Baptistcare case workers. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donate online at [baptcare.org.au/housesofhope](https://baptcare.org.au/housesofhope) or send your cheque to Baptistcare, PO Box 230, Hawthorn 3122. Please include your contact details so we can issue you with a tax-deductible receipt.



PROPERTY

Lease your property to Baptistcare at low or no rent. Properties with up to 4 bedrooms work well. Low or no rent helps us support more houses in the community. Contact Cliff: [charclay@baptcare.org.au](mailto:charclay@baptcare.org.au) or 0490 788 602



VOLUNTEER

Members of churches, community groups or individuals can volunteer to provide neighbourly support. Baptistcare will provide training and supervision. Contact Cliff: [charclay@baptcare.org.au](mailto:charclay@baptcare.org.au) or 0490 788 602

For more information visit: [baptcare.org.au/housesofhope](https://baptcare.org.au/housesofhope)

## Baptcare

\* March, 2021 – [homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/illegal-maritime-arrivals-bve-31-mar-2021.pdf](https://homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/illegal-maritime-arrivals-bve-31-mar-2021.pdf)

FUNDRAISING

ABN 12 069 130 463

[baptcare.org.au](https://baptcare.org.au)

# APPENDIX 3

## JUSTICE 2021 PAPER FROM CONVERGE

Baptist Care Australia put together this briefing that is part of the JUSTICE 2021 report used by some of our Baptist pastors and leaders across the country in September for meetings with state members of parliament during Converge21. (Relevant pages on Justice for people unable to secure safe and secure housing – pages 14-17)

Justice is  
fundamental to  
every society  
that values the  
wellbeing of all  
its members.

[baptist.org.au](http://baptist.org.au)

## **JUSTICE 2021**

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### **TOWARD A MORE JUST AUSTRALIA**





Australian Baptists are a multi-cultural and multi-generational movement of people centred on Christ and serving communities in metropolitan, regional, coastal, rural and remote Australia through a network of almost 1000 churches, State Associations and Service Organisations.

[baptist.org.au](http://baptist.org.au)

#### Contact us

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It is our aim that  
our advocacy  
reflects the voices  
of those who are  
experiencing  
injustice.

## INTRODUCTION: Australian Baptists and Justice

Justice is fundamental to every society that values the wellbeing of all its members. In the Christian tradition, to which the Australian Baptist churches belong, justice is grounded in the conviction that the earth and its resources are the gifts of God for the sustaining of all life, and that human communities are to be both the recipients and the stewards of this divine generosity.

There are many ways in which Australians can celebrate our deep and rich experience of a generous and just enjoyment of life. In this report however our focus is on areas in which our stewardship falls short, in which our society is not delivering on its promise of justice for all. This report calls for action by the Australian Parliament and the Commonwealth Government to move our society towards a greater realisation of justice for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- people seeking refuge and asylum;
- women experiencing domestic violence;
- people unable to secure safe and affordable housing;
- older members of our society in need of support and care;
- people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
- people living in extreme poverty; and
- people subject to modern slavery and ongoing violation of their human rights.

Achieving justice is not the sole preserve of governments, but something that requires the involvement of every member of society.

There are, of course, other manifestations of injustice that are deserving of attention. We have selected those in which Australian Baptists have some "skin in the game" through our community services agencies; our global humanitarian and development agency; and our State Associations of churches. In some of these areas we have longstanding ties with individuals and communities whose wellbeing is impacted by their experiences of injustice. In others our engagement is new and growing. In all cases it is our aim that our advocacy reflects the voices of those who are experiencing injustice.

We offer this report with an awareness of our own responsibilities. Achieving justice is not the sole preserve of governments, but something that requires the involvement of every member of society and every part of society. In Australia, the Baptists are a community of more than 1000 local congregations, our churches can be found in every State and Territory, and we serve the wellbeing of our fellow human beings through the ministries of our local churches and through bodies such as Global Interaction, Baptist Care Australia and Baptist World Aid. Globally we are a movement of 47,000,000 people with a presence in 126 countries and territories. We are committed to contributing towards a more just world, aware that the nature of justice can be contested, that our realisation of justice has been imperfect, but committed to a world in which there is justice for all.

## 1 Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The dispossession of Australia's First Peoples has had destructive and ongoing impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and remains the nation's oldest unresolved injustice. It is vital to the interests of all Australians that our nation take the steps necessary to achieve a deep and lasting reconciliation.

This will not be accomplished in any single action or program but through a "walking together" in which the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original inhabitants and stewards of country is recognised, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' languages and cultures are recovered and celebrated, equality is achieved in health and life expectancy, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are able to determine their futures.

In recent decades, important steps have been taken to this end, including the achievement of land rights; the rejection of the doctrine of terra nullius; the apology to the Stolen Generations; the Uluru Statement from the Heart; the work of State governments toward treaties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; growing public support for NAIDOC week and Reconciliation Week; and growing respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as the world's oldest living cultures and embrace of the wisdom embedded in them. These have been necessary steps on the journey toward reconciliation, but more remains to be done.

### Progress the Uluru Statement calls for Voice, Treaty, and Truth-telling

In the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders outlined "a sequence of reforms aimed at doing what bureaucracy and politicians have been unable to do, empower Indigenous communities to take control of their future". These reforms were for Voice, Treaty & Truth-telling.<sup>1</sup>

The Government is currently considering the shape of a Voice to Parliament. The Voice aims to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have input into laws and policies that affect them and their communities.

We affirm the call for the Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution. This is both appropriate as a part of Constitutional recognition of the First Nations and ensures that Governments must give attention to the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on matters that affect them. If the Voice is merely legislated Governments can simply legislate to abolish it, something that has precedence in Australia's political history. We recognise that Constitutional Reform must be undertaken with due care and caution yet note that two former Chief Justices of the High Court of Australia, Murray

Gleeson, and Robert French, both support the inclusion of the Voice within the Constitution.<sup>2</sup>

We also affirm the need for the Voice to be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and inclusive of the breadth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and perspectives.

We call on the Commonwealth Government to put the Voice to the Australian population by referendum as soon as possible, and certainly with sufficient time for the passing of the referendum and the enactment of necessary legislation to be achieved within the next term of Parliament. We call the Coalition, the ALP, and the minor parties to work collaboratively to ensure a referendum question that satisfies the aspirations of the Uluru Statement for Voice and that has non-partisan support.

### Implement Closing the Gap Agreement

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience substantial disadvantages relative to non-indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are more likely to die before the age of 5; less likely to access early childhood education; and less likely to complete Year 12. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are more likely to experience domestic and family violence. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated; less likely to be employed; and more likely to experience psychological trauma. These are legacies of dispossession.<sup>3</sup>

Since 2008 the "Closing the Gap" initiative of the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) sought to name and address these inequalities, with largely disappointing results. A major review was conducted in 2018 which confirmed what many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities had long argued, that is, that COAG's approach had failed because it tended toward service delivery that did not involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in design, delivery and evaluation of programs and did not build on strengths within communities.<sup>4</sup> In 2020, a refreshed Closing the Gap agreement was launched, with an expanded set of goals and a commitment to place partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities at the centre of programming. We welcome this change of focus. It recognises the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as a resource and self-determination as the preferred pathway to community development. The great challenge will be for COAG to cultivate cultural change within government departments necessary to supporting the new model. To this end we believe the ongoing review process must be thorough, inclusive of input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the recommendations and actions taken to implement them publicly reported.

COAG's approach had failed because it tended toward service delivery that did not involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in design, delivery and evaluation of programs and did not build on strengths within communities.

### Implement recommendations to reduce rate of arrest and incarceration

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders have expressed alarm at the high rate of incarceration of their peoples. The Uluru Statement from the Heart says: "Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the

<sup>2</sup> JUSTICE 2021: TOWARD A MORE JUST AUSTRALIA

planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.”<sup>5</sup>

The 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody found that disproportionately high numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were dying in custody due to the fact that disproportionately high numbers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were subject to arrest and imprisonment. The Royal Commission made recommendations aimed at reducing these unacceptably high incarceration rates. Yet thirty years later Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are twice as likely to be incarcerated in 2020 as they were in 1991.

This must be an issue of high priority for the Commonwealth and State governments. Incarceration rates have been included in the Refreshed Closing the Gap Targets, with a goal of reducing the rate of adult Indigenous incarceration by 15% by 2031 and the youth Indigenous detention rate by 30% by 2021.

**“Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.”<sup>5</sup>**

**ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART**

We affirm the commitment to reducing the Indigenous incarceration rate and its inclusion in the refreshed Closing the Gap program. We also call on Commonwealth and State Governments to give urgent attention to implementation of the outstanding recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and to the findings and recommendations of the 2017 Law Reform Commission's *Pathways to Justice* Report.

“It is about the recognition of Indigenous Australians in the constitution, which empowers the Parliament to legislate the Voice to Parliament as the means by which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised in the nation. Australia does not make sense without recognition; Australia is incomplete without recognition. How could there be an Australia without its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous peoples? As long as its Indigenous peoples remain unrecognised, then Australia is an absurdity, a nation missing its most vital heart.”

Noel Pearson, Address to the National Museum of Australia, 17 March 2021



Source: ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Working Paper 140/2021.



Source: ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Working Paper 140/2021.

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JUSTICE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES 5

## 2 Justice for People Seeking Refuge and Asylum

At the end of 2019, more than 34 million people were refugees, asylum seekers or in a refugee-like situation. This was triple the number a decade earlier, due to both continuing and new conflicts that force people to flee their home country and the unwillingness of the international community to provide those already refugees with permanent solutions.<sup>1</sup>

The vast majority of refugees come from a handful of nations marked by high levels of violence. For example, at the end of 2019 more 60% of the world's refugee population came from just four countries — Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar.<sup>2</sup> Given that the vast majority of those who flee seek safety in a neighbouring country, refugee populations are also concentrated in a handful of mainly developing countries.

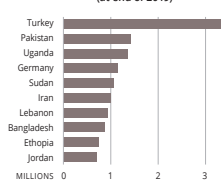
The living circumstances of people seeking refuge are typically precarious. Most have experienced trauma and have left behind familiar places, wealth, social institutions, relational networks, and other resources on which people usually draw in times of crisis. In almost every host country they experience restrictions on their freedom of movement and access to school, work, healthcare, and social protections. Where the conflict in their home country is prolonged and in the absence of opportunities to become permanent residents of their host country or to resettle in a third country, people can live for decades in marginality and danger.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the difficulties people face when seeking safety outside their home country. They have been disproportionately impacted by job loss, reduced working hours, and reduced income. Women who seek refuge, already living within households and communities experiencing high levels of trauma and absent established societal mechanisms for preventing violence, were more likely to suffer increased

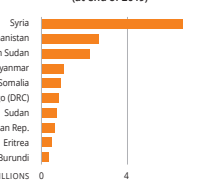
A REFUGEE is a person living outside their country who is unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group, or political opinion.

An ASYLUM SEEKER is a person who has applied or intends to apply for protection as a refugee but has not yet had their claim to refugee status assessed by authorities.

Countries hosting the most refugees (at end of 2019)



Countries producing the most refugees (at end of 2019)

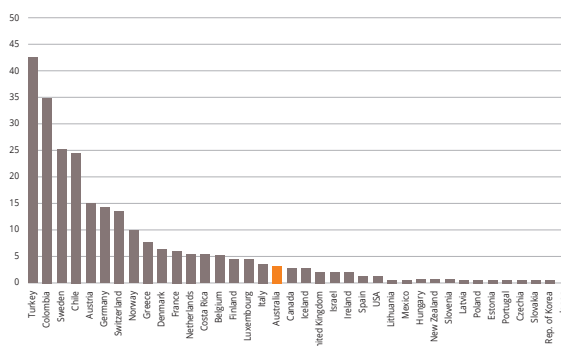


Source: UNHCR 2020

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JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE AND ASYLUM 7

Refugees per 1000 population OECD



Source: UNHCR 2020

levels of domestic violence. Children make up more than 50% of the global refugee population and more likely than other children to be impacted by the pandemic. As 94% of the world's students experienced school closures of up to 7 months in 2020, children seeking refuge were among the most severely impacted given very low rates of access to online and other remote forms of learning. Girls were left more exposed to violence, sexual abuse, and child marriage as a result of the pandemic.

As an island state somewhat distant from the places where people face the greatest threats to their lives and freedoms, Australia has never had to provide safety for vulnerable people in large, unexpected groups on the scale experienced by countries that border conflicted and fragile states. Our role in the international protection system has been to:

- Provide asylum to refugees who arrive at our borders seeking it (an obligation we assume as a signatory to the Refugee Convention);
- Resettle refugees from other host nations;
- Provide financial and technical support to host nations in the developing world; and
- Promote peace and prosperity in our region and the world.

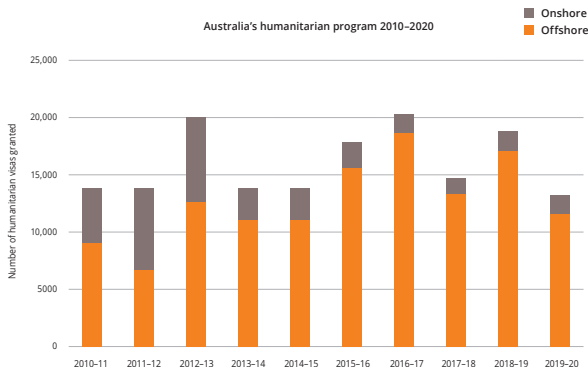
Australia has substantial capacity to engage in these areas. The UNHCR offers two indicators of country capacity to provide protection to refugees — ratio of refugees to GDP and the ratio of refugees to population. With 0.1 refugees per \$1000 GDP Australia ranks 98th in the world on the first indicator and 31 refugees per 1000 members of population Australia ranks 57th on the second.<sup>3</sup>

The provision of asylum to people seeking refuge in Australia is an obligation of the Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory. People who arrive in Australia seeking asylum make their way here by boat or plane. Yet despite the relatively low numbers who do so, the response to those seeking to arrive by boat has been the most contested area of refugee policy since such boats started arriving in the 1970s. Successive Governments imposed measures designed to deter boat arrivals and to satisfy public anxieties. Today these measures include the use of naval force to turn asylum boats away from Australian waters and a refusal to allow refugees who arrive by boat to settle in Australia. In our view this is a violation of Australia's obligations under the Refugee Convention.

Australia maintains one of the world's few refugee resettlement programs. This is not required under the terms of the Refugee Convention but is consistent with the role nations such as ours can play in the international protection system as identified in the Global Compact for Refugees.

In 2019-20 the Government had planned to offer visas to 18,750 people, with a minimum of 17,100 places to those living "offshore", that is, refugees living in an overseas host country who have applied for protection in Australia. Measures to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus saw the offshore program suspended in March 2020. As a result, only 13,171 visas were granted in 2019-20, 11,521 to those in the offshore component and 1,650 to those in the onshore component (i.e., people who applied for protection after arriving in Australia).<sup>4</sup> The 2020-21 Commonwealth budget indicates that the Australian Government will maintain a reduced cap of 13,750 for 2021-2025.

The provision of asylum to people seeking refuge in Australia is an obligation of the Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory.



Sources: Janet Phillips, (Sept 2017) "Australia's Humanitarian Program: a quick guide to the statistics since 1947", Australian Parliamentary Library; Dept of Home Affairs, Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program statistics for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

We believe Australia can and should do more to contribute to durable solutions for people seeking safety which their home country is unable or unwilling to provide. We call on the Commonwealth Government to:

- 1 Increase the number of visas under the Special Humanitarian Program back to 18,750 as soon as Covid-19 quarantine and travel restrictions allow, and in the course of the next Parliament establish a timetabled plan to raise the number to between 27,000-30,000 annually;
- 2 Conduct fair and timely assessment of all claims for refugee status.

- 3 Support people seeking asylum to live in the community with adequate income and access to health care during assessment of their claims.

- 4 Proceed with the introduction of a community sponsorship program that is accessible by community groups, affordable and in which the number of people entering through the community refugee program are additional to the number entering through other programs. Provision should be made for this in the 2021-22 Federal budget.



PHOTO: ROBERTO PIZZOLI

Globally, more than 34 million people are refugees including this woman and child in a refugee camp in the Eastern Mediterranean.

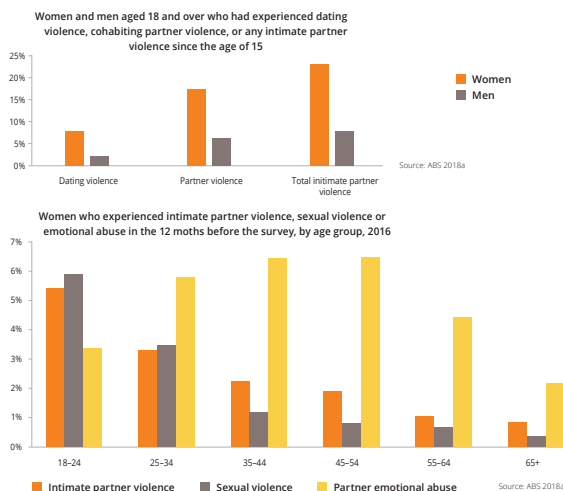
1 UNHCR (June 2020), Global Trends, Statistical Annex, Table 20  
2 Note this refers to refugees under the mandate of UNHCR and excludes approximately 5 million Palestinian refugees under the mandate of UNRWA and 3 million people who have fled Venezuela but are not classified as refugees.

3 UNHCR, Global Report 2019, Statistical Annex, Table 21  
4 Public Information and Reporting Section of the Department of Home Affairs (September 2020), Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program: 2019-20 p1

## 3 Justice for Women Experiencing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is an issue of significant concern for Australia. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare declares, "family, domestic and sexual violence (to be) a major national health and welfare issue that can have lifelong impacts for victims and perpetrators."<sup>1</sup>

Although men can experience domestic violence, research shows that perpetrators are overwhelmingly male while victims and survivors are mostly women and children. One in six women have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner since the age of 15. One in four women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or previous partner since the age of 15.<sup>2</sup>



Statistics continue to paint a complex picture of domestic violence in Australia. When rates of partner violence were reviewed in 2019, they appeared to be stable since 2005. However, the following have increased:

- The number of people accessing services because of domestic violence including police, hospital, child protection, and homeless services;
- The number of women being hospitalised for domestic violence (an increase of 23% for women from 2014/15 to 2016/17). According to the AIHW, "almost eight women were hospitalised each day in 2014/15 after being assaulted by their spouse or partner";<sup>2</sup>
- The number of reported incidents (for example there was a 9.4% increase in Victoria in 2020).<sup>3</sup>

The full picture is hard to verify with the number of women who did not seek advice or support about violence by a partner being 46% of women for whom there is current partner violence and 37% of women for whom there was previous partner violence.<sup>4</sup> In addition, frontline domestic violence workers in NSW indicated a "dramatic spike" in calls to national and state-wide domestic violence hotlines and a rise in client numbers through the pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

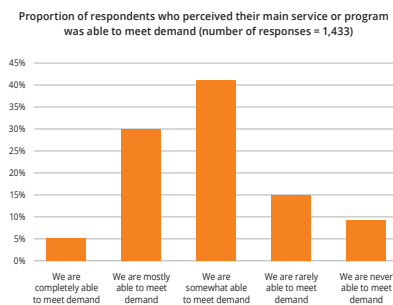
While our understanding of domestic violence may be deepening, societal recognition that it includes non-physical forms of abuse and control (often referred to as coercive control) is not well understood. There is still significant work to be done to embed an understanding of coercive control in preventative work, law enforcement, and the legal system. Coercive control is present in relationships prior to a perpetrator murdering their partner or former partner.<sup>6</sup> The need for a better understanding of coercive control is high as "intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability, illness and injury among women aged 18-44."<sup>7</sup>

### Our evaluation

In 2018, Baptist leaders from across the nation met with politicians in Canberra to advocate for victims of domestic violence. At that time we issued a report based on interviews with domestic violence service providers in 28 federal electorates and identified two key issues:

1. There was a significant lack of safe, secure, and affordable housing options for people seeking to leave abusive relationships, and the consequences of this can be traumatic. There is a shortage of suitable crisis and emergency accommodation and of secure, long term social or affordable housing.
2. The vast majority of organisations that provide domestic violence services are fully stretched and only able to meet the demand for their services by either limiting what they offer or to whom they offer it.<sup>8</sup>

Frontline domestic violence workers in NSW indicated a "dramatic spike" in calls to national and state-wide domestic violence hotlines and a rise in client numbers through the pandemic.



While we welcome the funding boost from no new funding for domestic violence in 2020 to \$1 billion over three years in the recent Commonwealth budget, it was well short of the \$3 billion over three years requested by women's safety organisations and is insufficient to enable domestic violence service providers to meet the demand for their services and to assure victims of abuse that if they leave their perpetrator, they will be supported.<sup>9</sup>

- A report commissioned by the NSW Council of Social Services and other peak bodies, found that 62,000 employees are needed by 2030 to meet the demand for services in NSW;<sup>10</sup>
- 56% of people seeking crisis accommodation did not receive it;<sup>11</sup>
- Frontline DV workers reported 2020 to be the 'worst year on record' for family violence;<sup>12</sup>
- Demand for a court advocacy service in NSW rose 35% in 2020<sup>13</sup>

One service provider we spoke to recently said that they had a waitlist of 8 months for their domestic violence therapy group and have had to close the wait list four times in recent months. They also said that while the Victorian Royal Commission into Domestic Violence report recommendations (given in 2016) were welcome, they have not been implemented to completion and services are almost always at capacity.

Over the course of the last decade, there has been rising awareness of DV within the Australian community and women experiencing violence have been encouraged to come forward and seek support. Yet as a nation we are not delivering on provision of that support. If Australia is to see real change to domestic violence and give assurance to women coming forward, the message that needs to be sent to victims of abuse is that "we have your back" and that we have your back every step along the way:

- When you contact the police; that the police will understand coercive control and how to look for signs and evidence.

**If Australia is to see real change to domestic violence and give assurance to women coming forward, the message that needs to be sent to victims of abuse is that "we have your back".**

- When you go through the family court system; that wait times will be reasonable, that you will be given support and that when you raise concerns about your partner or ex-partner you will be taken seriously.
- If your children are given interim orders allowing your partner access to them, the access visits will be supervised to ensure the safety of the children.
- When you access services, whether they are in the crisis or therapeutic stage, you will not have a one-year long wait list or be expected to be out of the crisis stage in six weeks.
- When you seek crisis accommodation; that you will not be turned away because it is full.
- When you look for affordable housing or whether you want to stay in your own home safely; you are able to access what you need.
- Whether you live in a regional, rural, or urban area; that you will have access to services.

In addition to this, significant primary prevention is needed through awareness raising and education of the public. This will help to prevent abusive relationships before they start and alert people to the early warning signs of coercive control.

## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

We ask for a commitment from COAG to ensure women in Australia leaving situations of domestic violence can access the full suite of services they require. This should include:

- 1 An increase of Commonwealth domestic violence funding to \$1 billion pa from the 2021 Federal Budget and assurance of long-term funding for the full range of prevention, early intervention, and tertiary programs to prevent and respond to family violence.
- 2 A commitment to fund a public education initiative around coercive control as well as increased education for frontline workers, police, lawyers, judicial officers, and child protection workers on coercive control.
- 3 The development of a mechanism to assess unmet need for services to assist victims/survivors across Australia, in order to inform funding and program decisions, in collaboration with State and Territory Governments, and relevant non-government peak bodies and alliances.<sup>14</sup>
- 4 An increased investment in safe, secure, and affordable housing. Without a significant investment in social and affordable housing, we will continue to push people who are experiencing domestic and family violence into homelessness, or back into violent relationships.

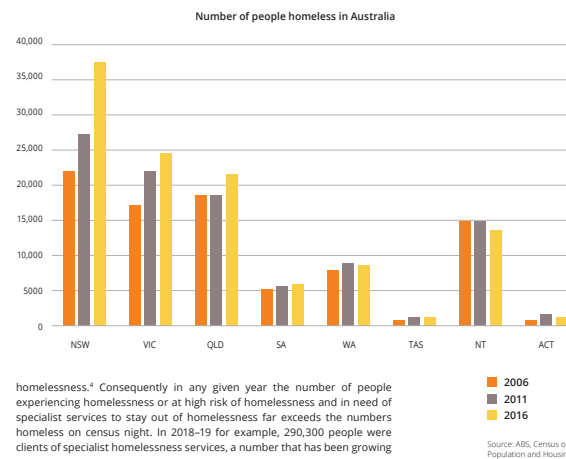
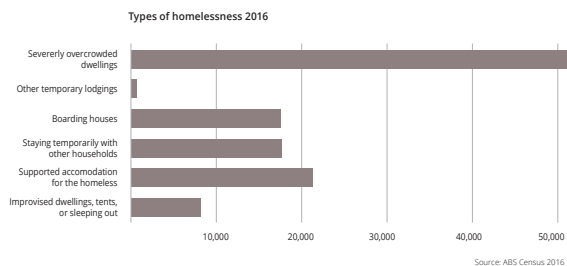
## 4 Justice for People Unable to Access Safe and Secure Housing

Access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing is fundamental to the enjoyment of life and wellbeing. The Productivity Commission describes it "as a vital determinant of wellbeing that is associated with better outcomes in health, education and employment, as well as economic and social participation".<sup>1</sup>

Yet in Australia today a large and growing number of people are homeless, many more are at risk of homelessness, and others are experiencing unsustainable rent stress that is pushing them into poverty. We believe that Commonwealth and State governments can do more to implement policies that will reverse this trend and drive down rates of homelessness.

In the mind of many "homelessness" conjures images of people sleeping rough on the streets. This is but one way in which people find themselves without access to adequate, safe and secure housing. Homelessness can also take forms such as a woman and her children who have fled domestic violence and sleep in their car; an elderly man evicted from his home due to an inability to make rent payments and now sleeps in a boarding house; a young person who has been kicked out of home and "couch surfs" in the homes of friends; and a large group made up of extended family members sharing a house to the point that it is severely overcrowded.<sup>2</sup>

The number of people in Australia who experience homelessness is growing. On the night of the 2006 census 95,309 people were homeless. Ten years later the number was 116,367, an increase of 22% and greater than the rate of population increase.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, while these figures provide a snapshot of homelessness at a given point in time, over time people move in and out of



homelessness.<sup>4</sup> Consequently in any given year the number of people experiencing homelessness or at high risk of homelessness and in need of specialist services to stay out of homelessness far exceeds the numbers homeless on census night. In 2018-19 for example, 290,300 people were clients of specialist homelessness services, a number that has been growing year on year.

Homelessness is a reality in every state and territory. Due to their larger population sizes the eastern seaboard states (Qld, NSW, Vic) have the largest numbers of people who are homeless, but it is the Northern Territory in which the rate of homelessness is more than ten times greater than any other Australian state or territory.

The causes of homelessness are complex and include personal and structural factors. Personal circumstances place some groups of people at higher risk of homelessness than others. Those at higher risk include people experiencing family and domestic violence; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people living with mental illness; people living with a disability; people who experience problematic drug or alcohol use; people who have been incarcerated; and former members of the defence forces.<sup>5</sup>

These circumstances alone do not create and sustain homelessness, but do so in a social system in which housing affordability is low for lower income households. Housing affordability is commonly defined in terms of the proportion of household income devoted to housing costs (rent payments, rate payments and housing related mortgage payments). Lower income households (that is, households in the lowest 40% of household income) are likely to experience housing stress when more than 30% of their income is devoted to housing costs.<sup>6</sup>

To alleviate housing stress, Commonwealth and State governments provide a number of supports and services.

1. Social housing: subsidised rental housing provided by not-for-profit, non-government or government organisations;
2. Specialist homeless services: direct assistance for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including accommodation and other services;
3. Financial assistance: targeted payments to assist with payment of rent or purchase of homes.

These are currently insufficient to overcome housing stress and prevent homelessness.

1. Australia lacks sufficient social housing stock. It has been estimated that Australia should maintain social housing stock equal to 6% of all occupied housing.<sup>7</sup> Yet the actual number of social housing units falls way below this (a gap of 130,000 dwellings in 2016), the total number of social housing stocks rose by just 20,969 in the ten years to 2020, and the proportion of households who are accessing social housing has fallen from 4.6% of all households in 2014 to 4.2% in 2020.<sup>8</sup> It is notable that government expenditure on homelessness emergency services rose by 27% in the four years to 2018-19 while social housing expenditure increased by just 4% over the same period.<sup>9</sup>
2. Specialist homelessness services report that on any given day they are unable to meet 260 requests for assistance.<sup>10</sup>
3. More than 1 in 2 recipients of Commonwealth rental support payments would be in housing stress without the payment, and almost 1 in 3 remain in housing stress after receiving the payment.<sup>11</sup>

Circumstances alone do not create and sustain homelessness, but do so in a social system in which housing affordability is low for lower income households.



Source: Productivity Commission Review of Government Service 2021

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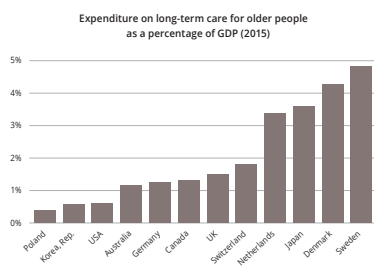
## 5 Justice for Older Members of our Society in Need of Support and Care

The Covid-19 pandemic brought to the surface many of the problems that Australia's aged care system is facing. The fact that the aged care system has problems is not new, with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety being the latest of more than 20 such inquiries into aged care since major reforms were introduced to the system through the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997.<sup>1</sup> For years, this system was considered world class, but the Royal Commission confirmed what many already knew — that Australia's aged care system needs dramatic change.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's titled their Interim Report 'Neglect'. It concluded that 'the current aged care system fails to meet the needs of older Australians, does not deliver uniformly safe and quality care, is unkind and uncaring towards older people and, in too many instances, it neglects them'.<sup>2</sup> The need for change is urgent as it is well-known that Australia's older population is dramatically increasing and consequently demand for aged care services is growing. This will serve to put more stress on a system that is already at breaking point.

### A system chronically underfunded

The work of the Royal Commission found that 'the reforms necessary to improve the quality and safety of aged care will require a significant injection of additional funding'.<sup>3</sup> This funding needs to be spent over all aspects of aged care to improve quality, ensure service sustainability, and guarantee access to the people that need it.



Source: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People – Research Paper No. 2, January 2020

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## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

We believe that Australia can and should do more to ensure access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing through:

1. A national housing strategy. Australia needs a new national housing strategy that requires a significant departure from business as usual. Although responsibility for housing and homelessness services belongs to State Governments, the Commonwealth Government controls the main levers critical to a bold new strategy — the power of taxation and control of the social welfare system. We call on the Commonwealth Government to take the initiative in the formation of a COAG national housing strategy that works with civil society to ensure all Australians are able to access safe, affordable and sustainable housing.
2. A national plan to end homelessness. Homelessness is varied and complex, yet a number of innovative approaches have been trialled both here in Australia and overseas with some promising measures of success.

These now need to be scaled up into a national strategy to end homelessness. We call on the Commonwealth Government to take the initiative in the formation of a COAG national homelessness strategy that works in partnership with civil society and those who are homeless to eradicate homelessness within a decade.

3. National leadership in fast tracking a lasting solution. We are calling on the Australian Government to lead the national commitment to invest in the creation of social and affordable housing. We are asking the Government to support the building of 25,000 dwellings per year with a total of 100,000 over 5 years with incentives that will encourage the States and Territories, local government and philanthropic sources into deeper and long-term investment.



During the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre was unable to offer seated dining, but continued to meet growing demand by providing takeaway meals, six days a week.

1. Productivity Commission, 2021, Report on Government Services 2021, Section G: Housing & Homelessness.
2. ABS, 2019, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2016.
3. ABS, 2019, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2016.
4. Andrew Benoit, Abraham Chigwara, Nicolas Haurat, Guy Johnson, Julie Moushion, Rosanna Scuderi, Yifeng Wang, Mark Woodson and Corinna Kelly, 2015, Journeys Home Research Report No. 6, Melbourne: Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.
5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019, Specialist Homelessness Services annual report 2018-19, Cat. no. HOU 318, Canberra: AIHW, Productivity Commission 2021; Benoit et al., 2015, Journeys Home Research Report No. 6.
6. AIHW, June 30, 2021, Housing Affordability Snapshot, Housing affordability – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (austlii.gov.au).
7. Dr Judy Yates, 2016, Social and Affordable Housing: Projections for Australia 2016-2026/36, Everybody's Home Campaign.
8. AIHW, June 30, 2021.
9. Fawcett, P., Kavanagh, L., Hartley & Thompson, 2020, Australian Homelessness Monitor 2020, Launch Housing.
10. AIHW 2020, www.aihw.gov.au/report-to-homelessness-services/specialist/homelessness-services.
11. Productivity Commission, 2021, Report on Government Services 2021.

JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE UNABLE TO ACCESS SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING 17

In 2021, the Australian economy is set to become the world's 12th largest economy. Even with the Covid-19 pandemic, Australia's public debt will remain low by global standards, with the Australian Government describing Australia's financial performance as 'rock-solid'.<sup>4</sup> Yet despite our well performing economy, Australia only spends about 1.2 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on aged care. That's less than half the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 2.5 per cent.<sup>5</sup> In other words, Australia spends 1.3 per cent less of its GDP on aged care compared to the OECD average. We can do better.

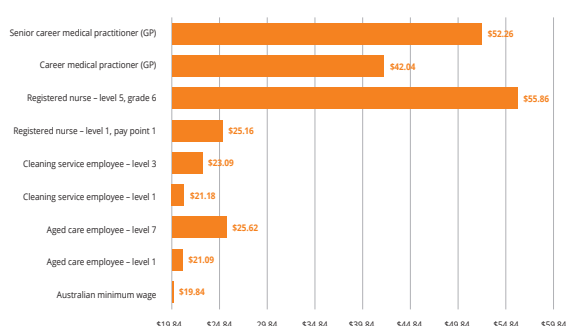
### A workforce undervalued

Aged care is facing a workforce 'perfect storm'. The population and demand for services is increasing whilst the volume of workers is in decline. The existing workforce — which consists of personal care workers, nurses, support workers and allied health staff<sup>6</sup> — is ageing and younger workers are choosing other roles and careers. Aged care providers are finding it increasingly difficult to find workers, a problem compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic with migration and working visas coming to a halt.

One of the biggest challenges is that staff in the sector are not paid well. Many earn close to minimum wage and even roles such as nurses are not able to attract the same wage as their public or health care counterparts. This is also true for other workers such as Personal Care Workers who can attract higher wages in areas such as cleaning. This detracts people from entering the aged care workforce and is also a reason cited for their exit.

...despite our well performing economy, Australia only spends about 1.2 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on aged care. That's less than half the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average...

Full-time award rate comparison of hourly pay



Source: Fair Work, B. Verrill, M. and Brunetto, Y., 2021.

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The Royal Commission heard that “The staff in our aged care homes are not well paid. There are all too often not enough of them to provide the care they would like to — for example, to sit and have a chat over a cup of tea. Many work in stressful and sometimes unsafe workplaces. Some are untrained; others have inadequate training.”<sup>7</sup> The current system is not funded to provide enough staff members with the right qualifications to provide level of quality care that Australians expect and deserve. While providers believe wages should be higher, they find it difficult to pay them due to lack of funding that would allow for wage increases.<sup>8</sup>

Short, medium, and long-term strategies are required to overcome workforce issues in aged care. This includes a greater emphasis on successful workforce planning, training and development and a more positive industry image.<sup>9</sup> It must also include an increase in worker wages and increases in provider funding that enable sustainability and the match the cost of providing care, including appropriate increases in wages.

Deserved care, denied

A rights-based aged care system needs to include ensuring that older people get access to the care they need, when they need it. There have been policy shifts in recent years that have been aimed at assisting more older people to stay at home for as long as possible. Research from many sources has confirmed time and again that this is what Australians want.

However aged care provided in the in home is currently rationed, a practice that the Aged Care Royal Commission called ‘cruel and discriminatory’. When an older person is deemed eligible for a Home Care Package, they must first wait in the national prioritisation queue before a package of services is ‘assigned’, and then they must find a service provider to deliver their care. That can all take a very long time — up to a year or even longer — especially for those who have higher care and support needs.<sup>10</sup> It is essential for senior Australians, their families, and carers that a needs-based system that ensures timely access to services is implemented as a priority.

Number and percentage of people waiting for a Home Care Package (HCP) at their approved level who were also approved for permanent residential care, by level of approval at 31 December 2020.

Number of people on the Home Care Package (HCP) Waiting List (Dec 2020)			
APPROVED LEVEL	Number of people waiting for a HCP at their approved level who also have an approval for permanent residential care	Number of people waiting for a HCP at their approved level	Percentage of people waiting for a HCP at their approved level who also have an approval for permanent residential care
Level 1	895	3,384	26.4%
Level 2	20,485	41,810	49.0%
Level 3	26,824	38,473	69.7%
Level 4	10,869	13,192	82.4%
TOTAL	59,073	96,859	61.0%

Source: Australian Government Department of Health, 2021

## 6 Justice for People Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change

Without a healthy planet to live on, the health and wellbeing of people and all other living things is impacted. We are a small part of an ecosystem much larger than ourselves, yet human activity has degraded this ecosystem, which threatens our ability to thrive for future generations. A protected environment is not only beneficial for humans and nature, but integral to our ongoing survival.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are two of the most urgent interconnected environmental issues we face this century. Climate change drives biodiversity loss, and conversely, protecting and restoring biodiversity is essential in addressing climate change. The United Nations Environment Programme states that climate change and biodiversity loss are twin crises that should be tackled together — and the next ten years will be crucial in doing so.<sup>1</sup>

Already the most devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are being felt by the most vulnerable communities both globally and here in Australia. All predictions for coming years suggest that this will continue to be the case.

The World Health Organisation estimates there will be an additional 250,000 climate change related deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 resulting from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, and heat stress.<sup>2</sup>

Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe natural disasters, and fresh water and food shortages could see over a billion people displaced from their homes by the year 2050.<sup>3</sup>

Although these issues will affect all of humanity, low and middle-income countries are less likely to have sufficient infrastructure to address these ecological threats or funding to prepare for and address disasters as they happen. Populations across Sub-Saharan and North Africa, South Asia, and Latin America are at greatest risk, despite being some of the lowest emissions contributors.

These impacts mean that responding to these ecological crises and finding pathways for just transition are an issue not only of environmental justice but also of justice for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Australia, the Paris Agreement and Climate Change

Australia is a party to the Paris Agreement, which has the stated purpose of “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”. As well as

Impact of Covid-19 on the aged care sector

Amidst the challenges of the aged care reforms, we can't omit to focus on the pandemic which is impacting the aged care sector very significantly. Due to the vulnerability of older people, aged care providers and government have been required to take precautionary measures. As a result, residents, their families, and aged care staff suffered strongly during the pandemic as thousands of residents in homes endured months of isolation which has affected people's physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.<sup>11</sup> It is vital that Government and providers develop innovative ways to protect and support residents during these difficult times.

## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

We believe Australia must deliver uniformly safe and quality care for all older Australians and call on the Commonwealth Government to:

- 1 Adopt all recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
- 2 Increase spending in aged care to levels equivalent or higher than comparable OECD countries.
- 3 Establish an independent aged care pricing authority by July 2022 to determine prices for aged care services based on a casemix classification and funding model and annual costing studies which have regard to, inter alia, minimum casemix adjusted staffing levels.
- 4 Announce a joint Australian Government, employer, and union application to the Fair Work Commission in 2021-22 to increase minimum award wages which includes provision for funding award increases.
- 5 Fund a workforce program to support training, clinical placements, scholarships, and other initiatives to respond to workforce challenges in a targeted and commit the development of a 10-year workforce strategy to ensure a sufficient supply and distribution of health and aged care workers for the aged care sector and to inform future targeted workforce initiatives.
- 6 Provide funding for removing the home care package waiting list by December 2022, and thereafter offering services based on assessed need within one month of assessment.
- 7 Commit to the development and implementation by July 2024 of a new uncapped and better integrated aged care program.

1 The Australian Aged Care Collaboration, 2021. Report: It's time to care about aged care. Canberra: The Australian Aged Care Collaboration, p.22.  
2 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2019. Interim Report: Neglect. Volume 1. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, p.1.  
3 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2020. Consultation paper 2 - Financing Aged Care. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, p.1.  
4 Australia.gov.au, 2021. Why Australia - Benchmark Report - Resident economy. [online] Available at: <https://www.australia.gov.au/benchmark-report/resident-economy> [Accessed 18 June 2021].  
5 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People - Research Paper No. 2, January 2020, accessed 22 January 2021, <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/Research%20Paper%202%20-%20Review%20of%20International%20Systems%20for%20Long-term%20care%20of%20...pdf>, p.62.  
6 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Review of International Systems for Long-term Care of Older People - Research Paper No. 2, January 2020, accessed 22 January 2021, <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/Research%20Paper%202%20-%20Review%20of%20International%20Systems%20for%20Long-term%20care%20of%20...pdf>, p.62.  
7 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2020. Consultation paper 2: Financing Aged Care. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, p.1.  
8 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2020. Interim Report: Neglect. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.  
9 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2020. Aged care and COVID-19: a special report, available at: <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/aged-care-and-covid-19-a-special-report.pdf>  
10 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2019. Interim Report: Neglect. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.  
11 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, 2020. Aged care and COVID-19: a special report, available at: <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/aged-care-and-covid-19-a-special-report.pdf>

setting targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, the Paris Agreement includes a mechanism for targets to be reviewed every five years, and for the provision of climate finance to developing countries.

In 2015, Australia made a Paris Agreement commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2030. While this is a step in the right direction, Australia's Climate Change Authority notes that more ambitious targets are required to meet the Paris Agreement goals.<sup>4</sup>

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are tracked through the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. To December 2020, total emissions have dropped by 20% from June 2005. This figure includes a 5% reduction between 2019 and 2020 reflecting the impact of Covid-19.<sup>5</sup>

As a high-income country and one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emitters in the world, Australia's current commitments are significantly lower than other comparable nations for example the US (50-52% reduction by 2030), UK (78% by 2035), or Canada (40-45% by 2030).

G20 Countries' Green House Gas emissions per capita and 2050 Commitments

Country	CO <sub>2</sub> emission per capita 2018	Commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050
India	1.8	No
Brazil	2	2060
Indonesia	2.2	No
Mexico	3.7	No
Argentina	4	✓
France	4.6	✓
Turkey	5	No
Italy	5.4	✓
United Kingdom	5.4	✓
China	7.4	2060
South Africa	7.5	✓
Germany	8.6	✓
Japan	8.7	✓
Russia	11.1	No
South Korea	12.2	✓
United States	15.2	✓
Saudi Arabia	15.3	No
Canada	15.5	✓
Australia	15.5	No

Sources: World Bank Data 2021 and Sustainable Development Report 2021: G20 and Large Countries Edition.



The aid budget is increasingly focused in the Pacific (\$1.44 billion) and South East Asia (\$1.01 billion) regions. This year's budget includes \$335 million of Covid-19 specific measures designed to assist the Pacific, Southeast Asia, and India to address the impacts of the virus and provide access to vaccines, and lifesaving medical supplies.<sup>4</sup>

Current overall levels of aid, reflecting continual decline since 2014-15 and mean Australia is now considerably less generous than other comparable nations. Australia now ranks 21st among the 30 nations that are members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) based on the percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) committed to development and humanitarian aid. This is despite Australia being the 10th largest economy<sup>5</sup> and having one of the highest levels of average wealth in the world. Among the OECD nations of Europe and North America to which Australia is traditionally compared, only two are less generous than Australia.<sup>6</sup>

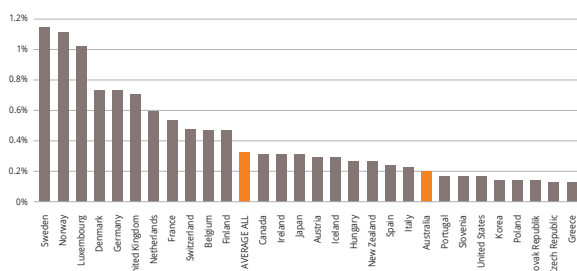
Australia is now considerably less generous than other comparable nations. Australia now ranks 21st among the 30 nations... This is despite Australia being the 10th largest economy and having one of the highest levels of average wealth in the world.

## Humanitarian crises and Covid-19

Australia's international humanitarian financing has also not kept pace with global needs. The UN's 2021 Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) outlines that in 2021 US\$35 billion is needed to meet the immediate needs of 160 million people across 56 countries.<sup>7</sup>

The 2021-2022 Australian Budget saw a modest increase of humanitarian assistance from \$475.7 million in 2020-2021 to \$485.3 million. This remains below the stated commitment of \$500 million a year outlined in the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper. It is a long way off Australia's global fair share which has been estimated at \$861 million in 2021. While there has been an increase in the humanitarian aid budget since 2017, current budget estimates this will plateau over the next few years. This increase has also come at a cost from other ODA funded areas as the ODA budget has seen a downward trend during the same period.

Peer country 2020 ODA as a percentage of GNI



Source: <https://devpolicy.org/aidtracker/comparisons>

## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

We call on the Australian Government to contribute to justice for people living in extreme poverty globally through ensuring we:

- Commit to growing Australia's contribution to addressing the development challenges of our global and regional neighbours. Australia's immediate response to the growing challenges of poverty and inequality due to Covid-19 should be continued and built upon. This should include:
  - Making the additional aid funding announced in response to the pandemic permanent through committing to a new base ODA budget of \$4.5 billion; and
  - Increasing aid as a percentage of Gross National Income in each subsequent year
- Ensure Australia meets its fair share contribution to global humanitarian funding. As global humanitarian needs escalate and the funding gap increases, Australia should commit to:
  - Providing at least \$861 million per year in humanitarian funding as part of an increasing ODA program; and
  - Within this funding total, adopt a \$150 million famine prevention package to address rising hunger and child malnutrition in conflict-affected countries.
- Commit to supporting global measures to end Covid for all
  - Continue to increase the ambition and level of Australia's investment and vaccine sharing contributions to help end the pandemic faster.
  - Continue to respond to outbreaks with emergency assistance including personal protective equipment, oxygen, and Australian expertise.

1 World Bank, 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>  
 2 UNOCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2021. <https://www.unocha.org/>  
 3 Stephen Hayes, 'Development Assistance in the News' 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/development-assistance-in-the-news-dont-mention-the-aid-budget-20210521/>  
 4 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/jobs-2021-22-aid-budget-summary>  
 5 Australia Aid Tracker 'Comparisons' 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/aidtracker/comparisons/>  
 6 Australia Aid Tracker 'Comparisons' 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/aidtracker/comparisons/>  
 7 UNOCHA Financial Tracking Service, 'Humanitarian aid contributions' 2021. <https://fts.unocha.org/>  
 8 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/jobs-2021-22-aid-budget-summary>

## 8 Justice for People Subject to Modern Slavery, Forced and Child Labour

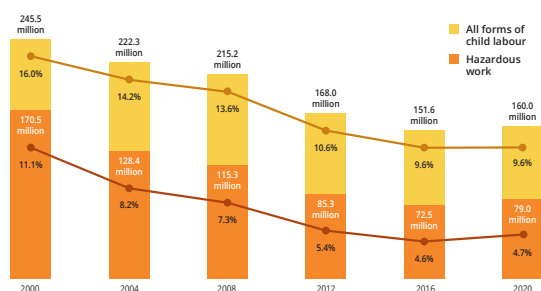
More than 250 years after the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, modern slavery takes different forms to those of the past, but it is every bit as real. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that approximately 40.3 million people are currently trapped in modern slavery.<sup>1</sup> This number comprises 24.9 million adults and children in forced labour, and 15.4 million people in forced marriage.<sup>2</sup> 160 million children are in child labour worldwide, with one in two working in jobs considered hazardous.<sup>3</sup>

Global supply chains are complex, secretive, and span multiple countries and industries, creating a perfect environment for these illegal labour practices to thrive. Forced and child labour are found in both emerging economies and developed countries but are particularly common in regions with high rates of poverty and large informal and/or private workforces. Women and girls face a higher risk of forced and child labour, comprising 70 percent of people in modern slavery. People working outside their home country and temporary workers also experience a higher risk of becoming trapped in forced labour situations.<sup>4</sup> 16 million people work in private industries including domestic work, construction, mining, and agriculture, and 4.8 million are exploited in the sex industry. Regions with the most significant overlap of population vulnerability and industries prone to illegal labour practices include Africa and the Asia-Pacific.

CHILD LABOUR is defined by the ILO as 'any work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.'<sup>5</sup>

FORCED LABOUR is defined by the ILO as 'any work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.'<sup>6</sup>

Percentage and number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour and hazardous work



Source: Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward, ILO and UNICEF 2021.

## 40.3 million people IN MODERN SLAVERY

16 million people exploited in global supply chains in the private economy  
 4 million people in forced labour imposed by state authorities  
 4.8 million people in forced sexual exploitation  
 15.4 million people in forced marriages

In addition to those experiencing exploitative practices in private industries, 4 million people are currently in some form of state-sponsored forced labour.<sup>7</sup> Examples of state-sponsored forced and child labour include prisoner labour, systemic upheaval of a group of citizens based on culture, race, or religion, or indiscriminately forcing of citizens to work in a particular industry for a period of time for low or no pay. State-sponsored forced and child labour in the cotton industry is known to be occurring in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and more recently, allegations of forced labour and other atrocities have been made against the Chinese government for their treatment of the country's Uyghur Muslim population. North Korea is considered to have the largest population in government-enforced forced-labour across multiple industries. This form of modern slavery adds a layer of complexity to the issue as it is endorsed by the governing power of a country, and often requires more severe action, such as trade sanctions, to remedy.

The International Labour Organisation estimated in 2012 that modern slavery generates a global profit of US\$150 billion. Rates of modern slavery have doubled since 2012, and it is believed to be the third largest criminal enterprise in the world after arms trade and drug smuggling.

Multiple international instruments have been created to facilitate collaborative efforts to eradicate modern slavery in all its forms, including the ILO Global Alliance Against Forced Labour and the UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The ILO Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No.29) is the most significant piece of international law governing modern slavery practices, and in 2014 a Protocol and Recommendation were adopted to provide support to countries working to enact the requirements of the Convention. Ten countries, including Australia, have also passed domestic laws to require businesses to assess and mitigate the risks of modern slavery in their supply chains.

Rates of modern slavery have doubled since 2012, and it is believed to be the third largest criminal enterprise in the world after arms trade and drug smuggling.

Source: International Labour Organization 2021.

The Covid-19 crisis has severely increased the number of people vulnerable to modern slavery. The economic impacts of the pandemic have significantly impacted industries that pose a high risk of forced and child labour, many of which comprise large portions of the workforce of countries with large vulnerable populations.

#### ● Australia's current response

Australia has not adopted the Protocol and Recommendation of the ILO but has passed national legislation to regulate the business practices as they pertain to modern slavery of companies operating in Australia. The Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 (MSA) requires businesses with an annual revenue of more than \$100 million to assess and disclose the risks of modern slavery in their business operations and develop a strategy to reduce these risks. The law covers around 3000 companies in its scope.

Australia's legislation is fairly strong due to strict mandatory criteria outlining what companies must include in their statements, and the requirement for all modern slavery statements to be published on an online public database. However, the legislation does not carry any penalties for businesses that do not submit a statement. It therefore relies heavily on the assumption that transparency will create enough accountability for businesses to act.

In 2021, Australia held a Senate inquiry into whether to amend the Customs Act 1901 to ban the importation of goods produced in the Xinjiang province of China and goods from other areas of China produced by forced labour, due to concerning allegations of state-sponsored forced labour against the Uyghur minority group. The Senate inquiry report released in June 2021 contained 14 recommendations including that "legislation be amended to prohibit the import of any goods made wholly or in part with forced labour, regardless of geographic origin" and that "the government initiate the review of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 as soon as possible" and consider "provisions for its strengthening and broadening".<sup>6</sup>

Ten countries, including Australia, have also passed domestic laws to require businesses to assess and mitigate the risks of modern slavery in their supply chains.



Child labour can take many forms and includes any work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

## WHAT WE'RE ASKING

Australia should continue to build on its response to the forms of modern slavery that rob people of human dignity and freedom both domestically and globally including through:

**1** Adopting all recommendations of the recent Senate inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced by Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020 including the proposed prohibition of any goods made wholly or in part with forced labour.

**2** Initiating the review of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 with a view to strengthening the Act including through:

- the addition of penalties for non-compliance;
- an independent and properly resourced

Anti-Slavery Commissioner whose role includes the investigation of allegations of forced labour, child labour and human trafficking in supply chains; and

- mandatory reporting specifically on products or services from high-risk areas identified in the prohibited productions and source countries list.

**3** Ratifying ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (PO29) to ensure the development of holistic legislative framework that will sit alongside the Modern Slavery Act.

1 International Labour Organization, 2021. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm>  
2 International Labour Organization, 2021. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm>  
3 International Labour Organization and UNICEF, 2021. "Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward." <https://data.ilo.org/resources/child-labour-2020-global-estimates-trends-and-the-road-forward/>

4 Walk Free Foundation, "Global Slavery Index 2018." <https://www.global-slavery-index.org/resources/download/GSI-2018-Report>  
5 International Labour Organization, 2021. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm>  
6 [https://www.ap.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade/UyghurForcedLabourBillReport](https://www.ap.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/UyghurForcedLabourBillReport)

**BAPTIST CARE AUSTRALIA**

A voice for hope



**A Just Cause** is a ministry under the auspices of Australians Baptist Ministries that assists local Baptist churches and the denominational leaders connect with opportunities to advocate for justice.

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



**BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA**

Be love. End poverty.

**Baptist World Aid** is a Christian aid and development organisation with a vision for a world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends. We partner with like-minded agencies overseas to empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty, challenge injustice and build resilience; and enable generous giving, ethical consumption, courageous advocacy and faithful prayer in order to achieve justice for people living in poverty.