



# SACOSS

South Australian Council  
of Social Service

Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians

## Media Release

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### Anti-Poverty Week a chance to reflect, a chance to change

National Anti-Poverty Week begins on Sunday 11 October. Says Karen Grogan, Executive Director of SACOSS, "Despite today's announcement of a drop in unemployment, SACOSS notes that in South Australia these figures have not changed. Overall, the proportion of working age Australians living in households where no one works is 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the OECD."

"The growing incidence of working poor should alarm all South Australians. One in ten Australians are in poverty despite living in a household where at least one adult works" Grogan says.

"Research by SACOSS indicates that the costs of living — for bare essentials such as housing, gas and electricity, and putting food on the table — have risen disproportionately to income sources" says Grogan. "Despite the affluence of many in our society, poverty continues to grow."

- Australia is ranked only 14<sup>th</sup> out of 18 OECD countries on the UN Human Poverty Index, behind most of Western Europe;
- Australia is in the bottom third of rich nations for oral health for adults;
- Australian spends less than the OECD average on education and we spend less than almost any OECD nation on early childhood education;
- While Australia's home ownership rate (70%) is one of the highest in the OECD, housing affordability is worse here than in any other English speaking OECD country;

"The complexity of social, economic and environmental influences shapes every aspect of our lives, from the ability to interact with the community to the ability to learn, grow and prosper. The gap in distribution of wealth is growing steadily - we must act now because poverty affects us all."

"**Anti-Poverty Week 2009**, starting nationally on Sunday 11 October, is a perfect opportunity to raise awareness, and consider what can be done to change things."

"For people keen to think about how they can make South Australia better, SACOSS' *Create a Better State* campaign offers resources, ideas, tools and tips – we encourage people to visit the website, offer comments and download our fact sheets".

[www.createabetterstate.wordpress.com](http://www.createabetterstate.wordpress.com)

#### Anti-Poverty Week Launch

2.30pm Sunday 11 October

Cynthia Poulton Hall, adjacent St Peter's Cathedral, King William Road, North Adelaide

Speakers include Matt Deighton (Messenger Press Editor in Chief);

Lieutenant-Governor Hieu Van Le (Chairman, SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission);

Mr Alan Tidswell (Mining, Energy and Engineering Academy and founder of unemployment programs in the Upper Spencer Gulf region); Big Issue vendor.

For a full program of events visit [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au)