

Waged poverty in Australia

A waged poor household is one living below the poverty line, whose main source of household income is wages and salaries



Waged poor households make-up **nearly a quarter** of all households in poverty and 3.2% of all Australian households



They tend to be **larger than other households in poverty** (average 2.7 compared to 1.9 people)



249,818

waged poor households
in Australia



Just **over half** also receive some form of income support



74% have just one person employed

CHARACTERISTICS



Nearly half of all waged poor households include children



35% of waged poor households are couples with children

while only 10% of other households in poverty are couples with children



65% of waged poor households are renting, more than double the rate of renting in the general population



Waged poor households are nearly **twice as likely** to experience difficulties paying gas, electricity or telephone bills as the general population



The key issue is not poor household budgeting, it is **lack of income**



The salary earner **often works irregular hours and lacks workplace entitlements** like sick leave and annual leave, as well as being ineligible for some income supports and concessions



Only 1% of waged poor households seek help from welfare or community organisations – less than the rate of the general population, and more than ten times less than other households in poverty