

# POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA 2020

## WHO IS AFFECTED?



UNSW  
SYDNEY



Some groups of people are more at risk of poverty than others. Factors such as age, gender, family relationships, paid work and sources of income, disability and other characteristics can all have an impact on poverty risks.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

People who are **unemployed** are at most risk of poverty. **66% of people** in households where the main income earner is unemployed live in poverty.

Main household earner is unemployed



**66%**  
of households  
are in poverty

Main household earner is employed



**9%**  
of households  
are in poverty

### INCOME SUPPORT

People relying on **income support payments** rather than a wage are approximately **5 times more likely** to live in poverty.

Income source is Govt payments



**35%**  
of households  
are in poverty

Income source is Wages/salaries



**7%**  
of households  
are in poverty

### HOUSING

People who **rent** their home are almost **twice as likely** to live in poverty (19%) as those who **own** their home (9%).

### PARENTAL STATUS & GENDER

**Sole parent families** are more likely to be in poverty (35%) than couple families (11%). **Families with children** with a **female** main earner are **more likely to be in poverty** (23%) than families with children with a **male** main earner (10%).

### AGE

**Children** are **more likely** to live in poverty (18%) when compared with the whole population (14%). The risk of poverty for **children in sole parent families** is **much higher, at 44%**. The poverty rate for **people aged over 65** is somewhat lower, at 10%, except for people aged 65+ **who are renting (39%)**.



**44%**  
poverty rate



**13%**  
poverty rate

### LOW-PAID WORK

**38%** of people in poverty are in **wage-earning households**. The vast majority of these households (**72%**) are **families with children**, and a significant proportion are relying on **part-time work (36%)**.

## SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

- Set a serious goal of **full employment**.
- Commit to a **flexible employment and training guarantee** to improve the **employment prospects** of people unemployed long-term.
- Permanently **lift social security payments** above the poverty line.
- Increase **Rent Assistance** so that everyone around the country receives enough rental support.
- **Build more social housing** to improve the supply of secure and affordable homes.