

Poverty and Inequality Partnership briefing & report launch



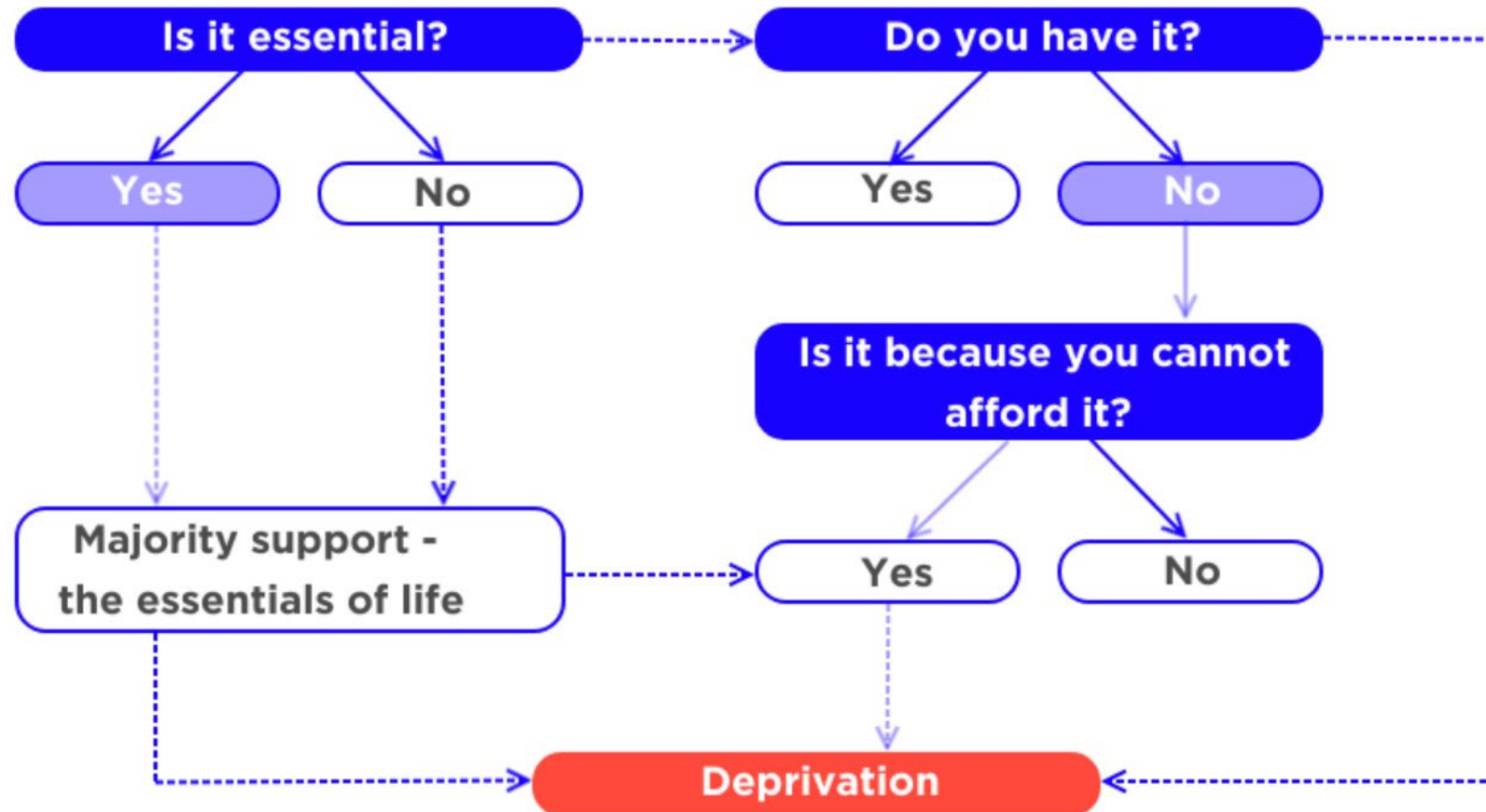
MATERIAL DEPRIVATION IN AUSTRALIA: THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE **Dr Yuvisthi Naidoo, Dr Melissa Wong, Dr Ciara Smyth and Dr Peter Davidson**

27 November 2024

Material deprivation

- + People are in poverty when they lack the resources necessary to live within socially acceptable living standards
- + Material deprivation research measures the direct outcomes of a lack of economic resources, reflecting the lived experience of poverty

Measuring deprivation



Essential items

ABOVE 90%

Warm clothes and bedding, if it's cold.

Medical treatment when needed

A substantial meal at least once a day

Medicines when prescribed by a doctor

A decent and secure home

Dental treatment when needed

A home with doors and windows that are secure

A yearly dental check up for each child

When it is cold, able to keep at least one room of the house adequately warm

A roof and gutters that do not leak

70-89%

Furniture in reasonable condition

Children being able to participate in school trips and events that cost money

A hobby or regular leisure activity for children

At least \$500 in savings for an emergency

A washing machine

A separate bed for each child

Getting together with friends or relatives at least once a month

A mobile phone

Access to the internet at home

BELOW 70%

Home contents insurance

New school clothes for school age children every year

Comprehensive motor vehicle insurance

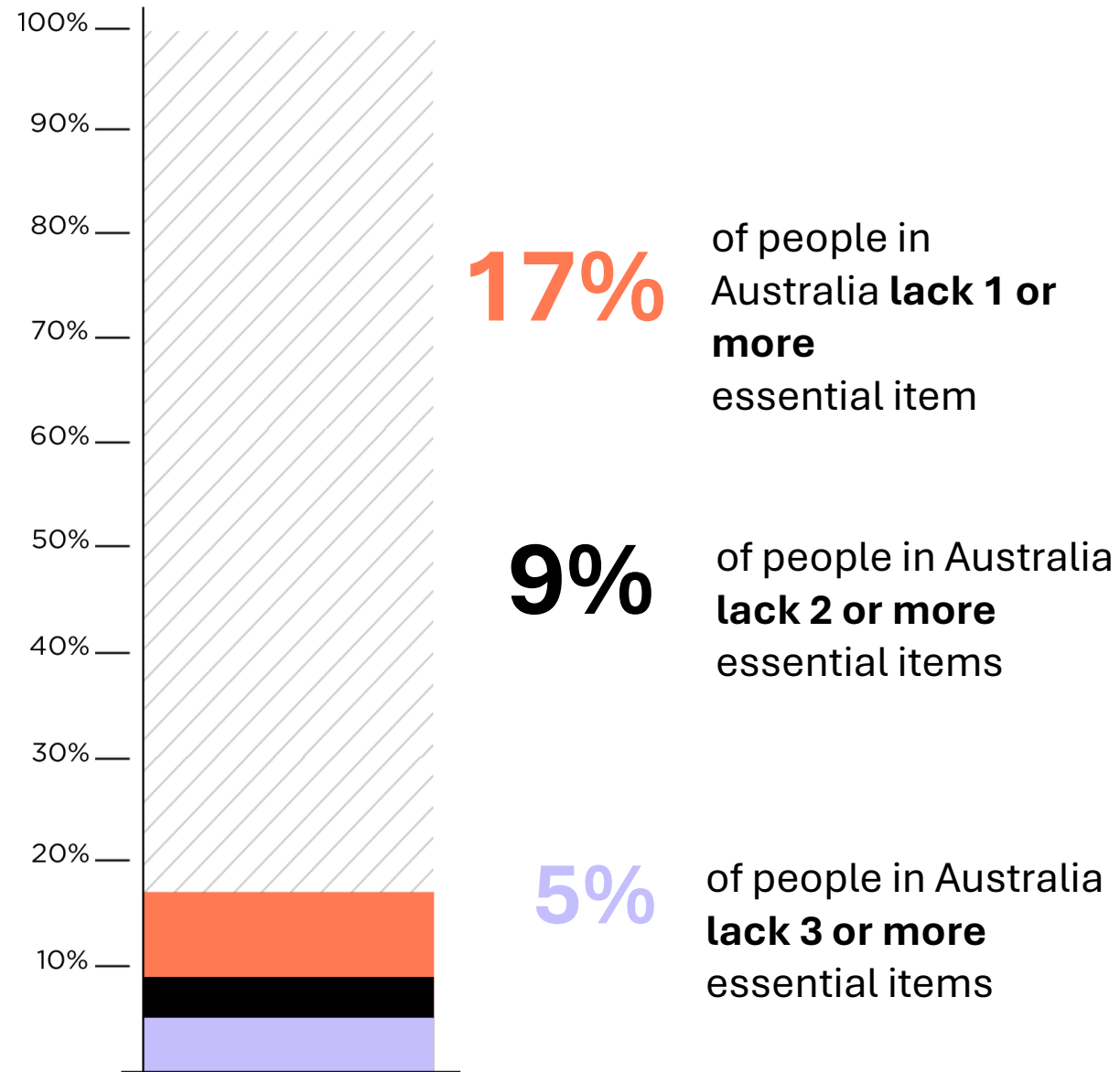
A motor vehicle

Buying presents for immediate family or close friends at least once a year

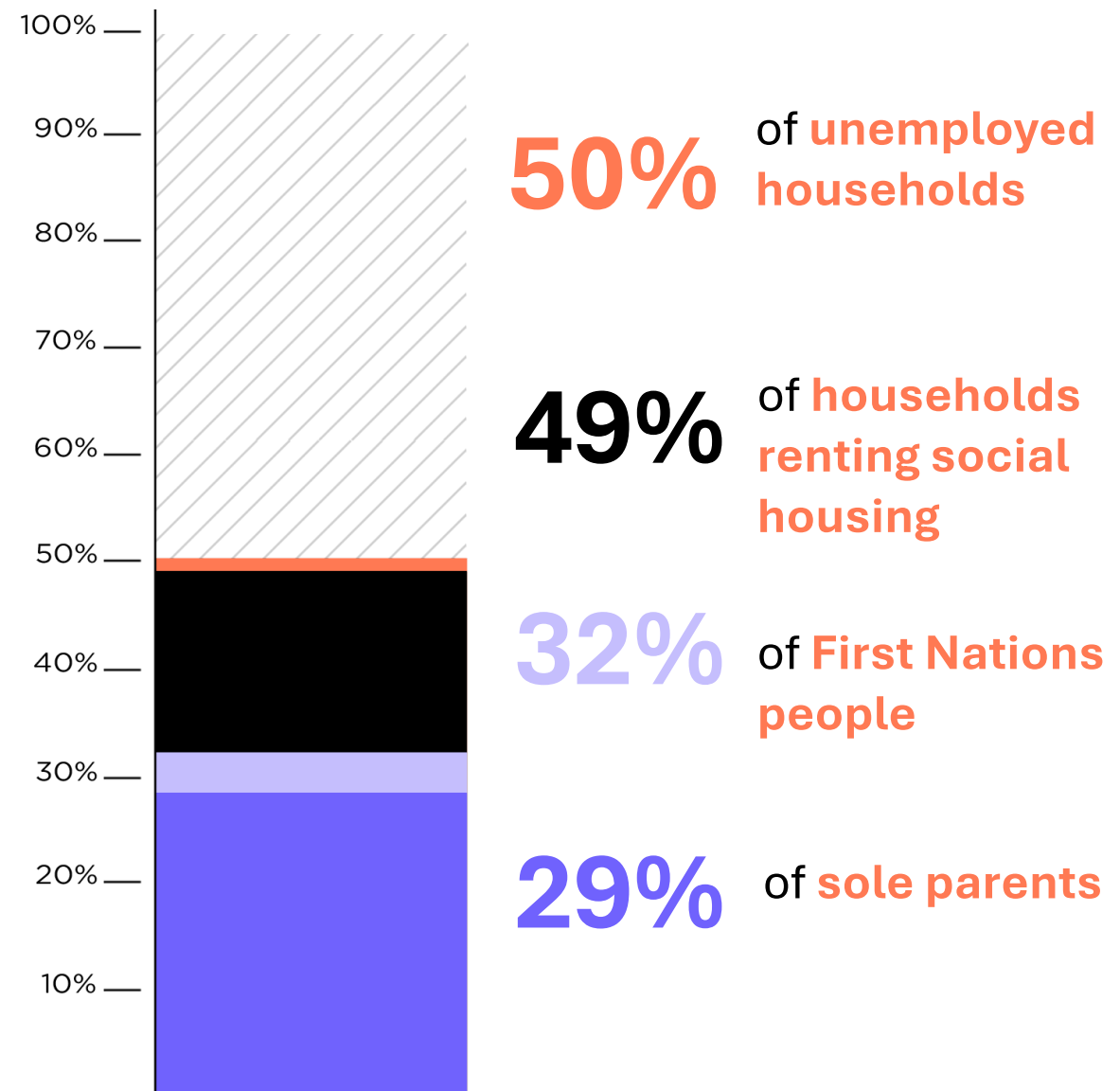
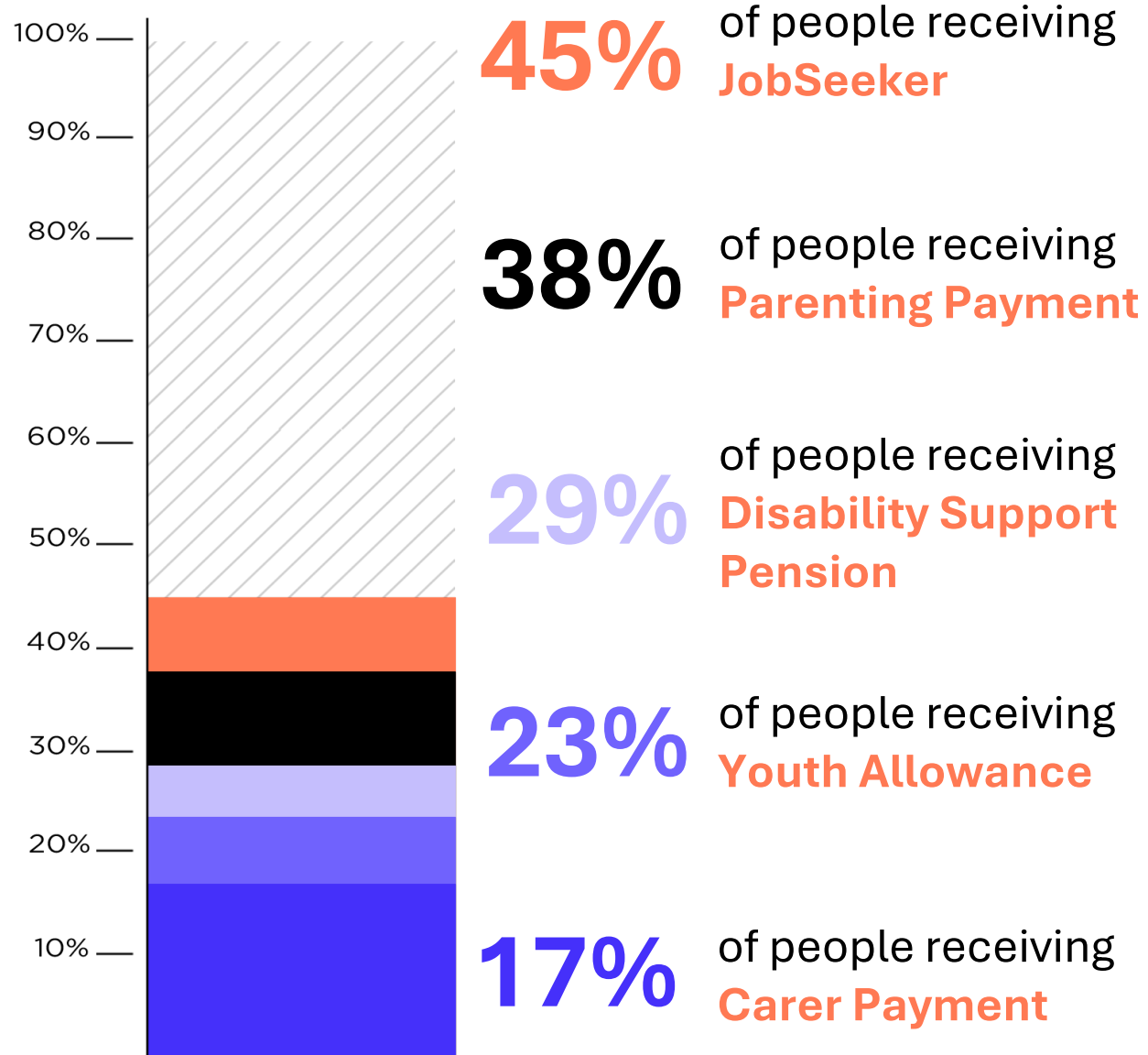
A week's holiday away from home each year

A television

Material deprivation in Australia



Lacking in 2 or more essential items



Deprivation rates

JOBSEEKER PAYMENT



5 more likely to lack
- dental treatment
- keeping a room warm during cold weather



4 times more likely to lack
- medical treatment
- a roof and gutters that don't leak



8 times less likely times more likely to lack
- school activities for kids
- internet access at home



PARENTING PAYMENT



8 times more likely to lack
- kids' school activities
- keeping a room warm during cold weather



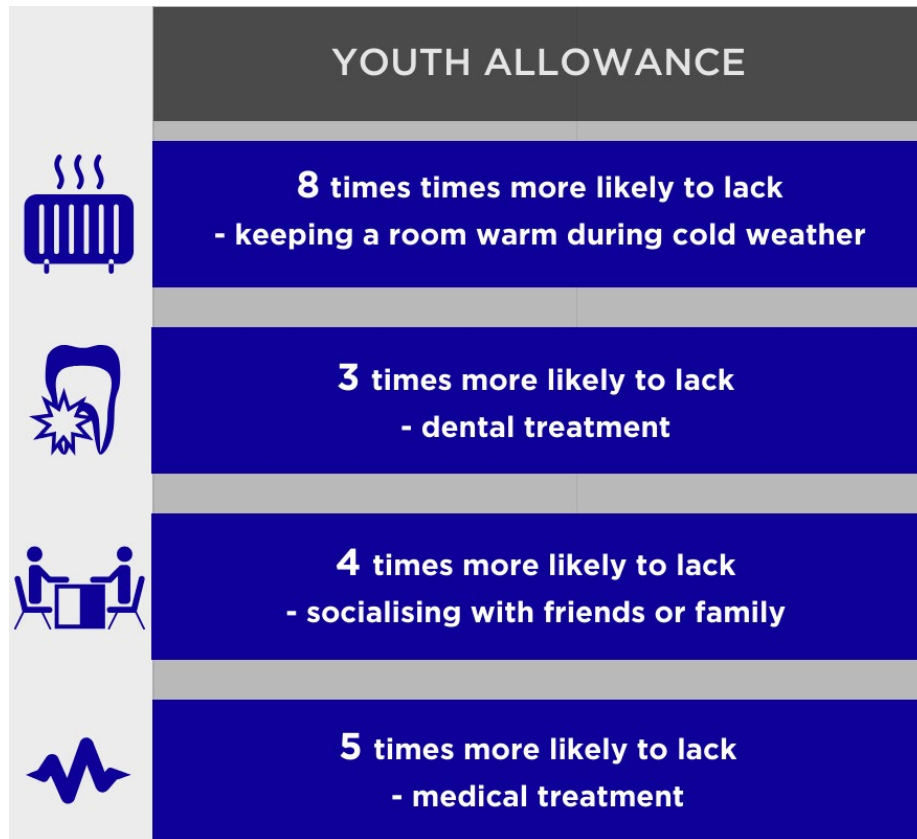
5 times more likely to lack
- medical treatment
- comprehensive car insurance



4 times more likely to lack
- dental treatment
- a home with secure doors and windows



Deprivation rates



Deprivation rates

UNEMPLOYED HOUSEHOLDS



10 times more likely to lack
- prescribed medicines
- a car



13 times more likely to lack a decent home & 12 times times more likely to lack kids' school activities



6 times more likely to lack
- internet access at home
- home contents insurance
- \$500 emergency savings



SOCIAL HOUSING RENTERS



10 times more likely to lack
- internet access at home



8 times more likely to lack
- a mobile phone



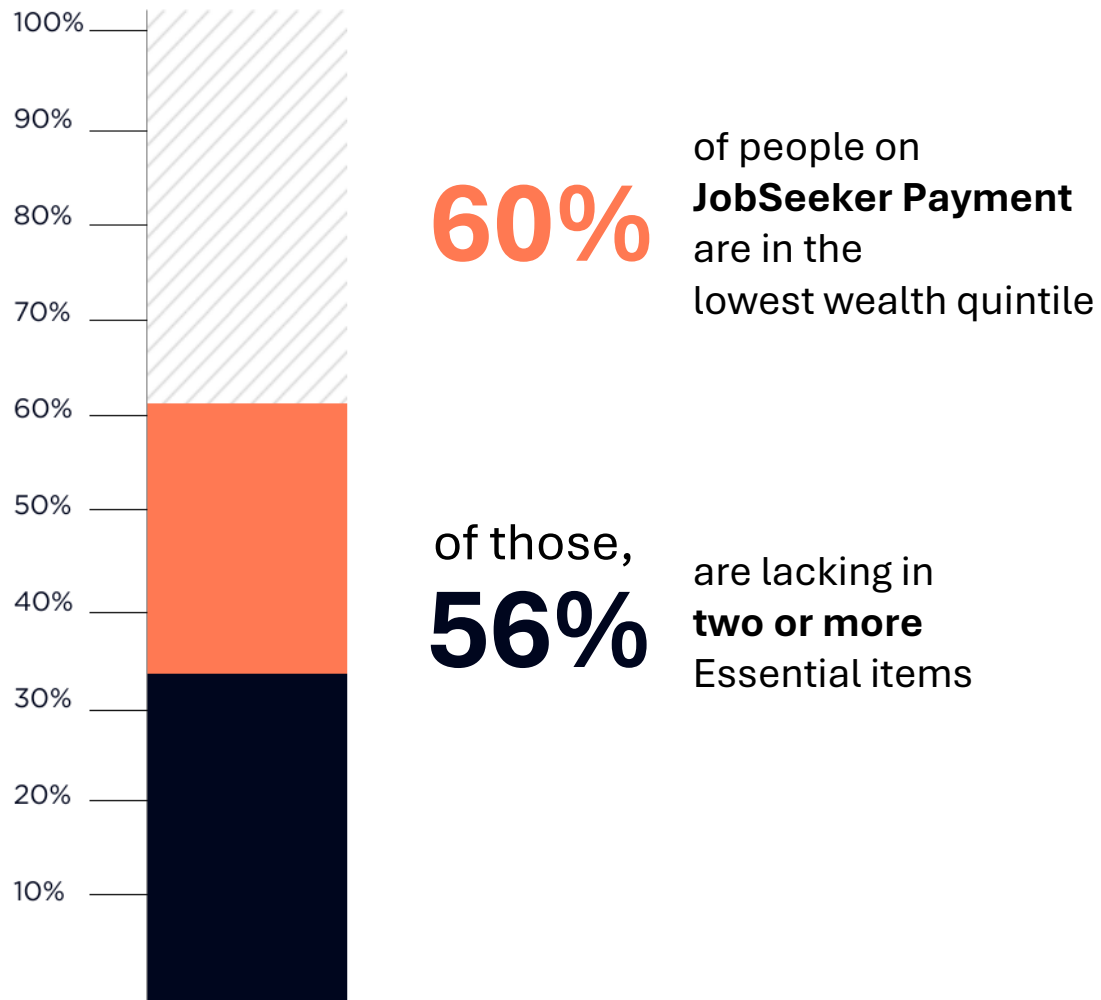
6 times more likely to lack
- home contents insurance
- a decent and secure home
- \$500 in emergency savings

Material deprivation and low wealth

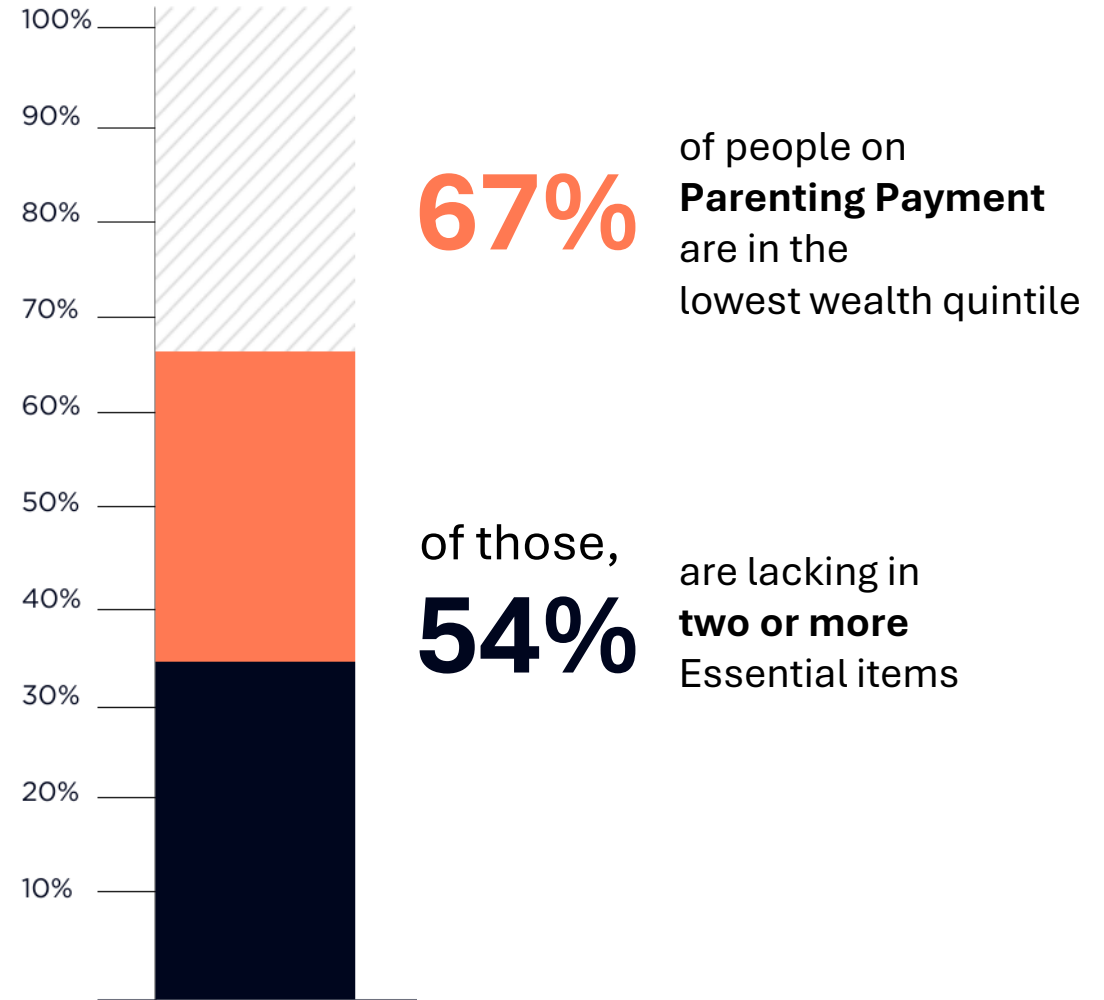
- + People living below the poverty line are more likely to face multiple deprivation, especially those with limited wealth to draw upon
- + People ranked in the lowest 20% of the wealth distribution (median wealth holding of \$24,500) are 4 times more likely to experience multiple deprivation

Material deprivation and low wealth

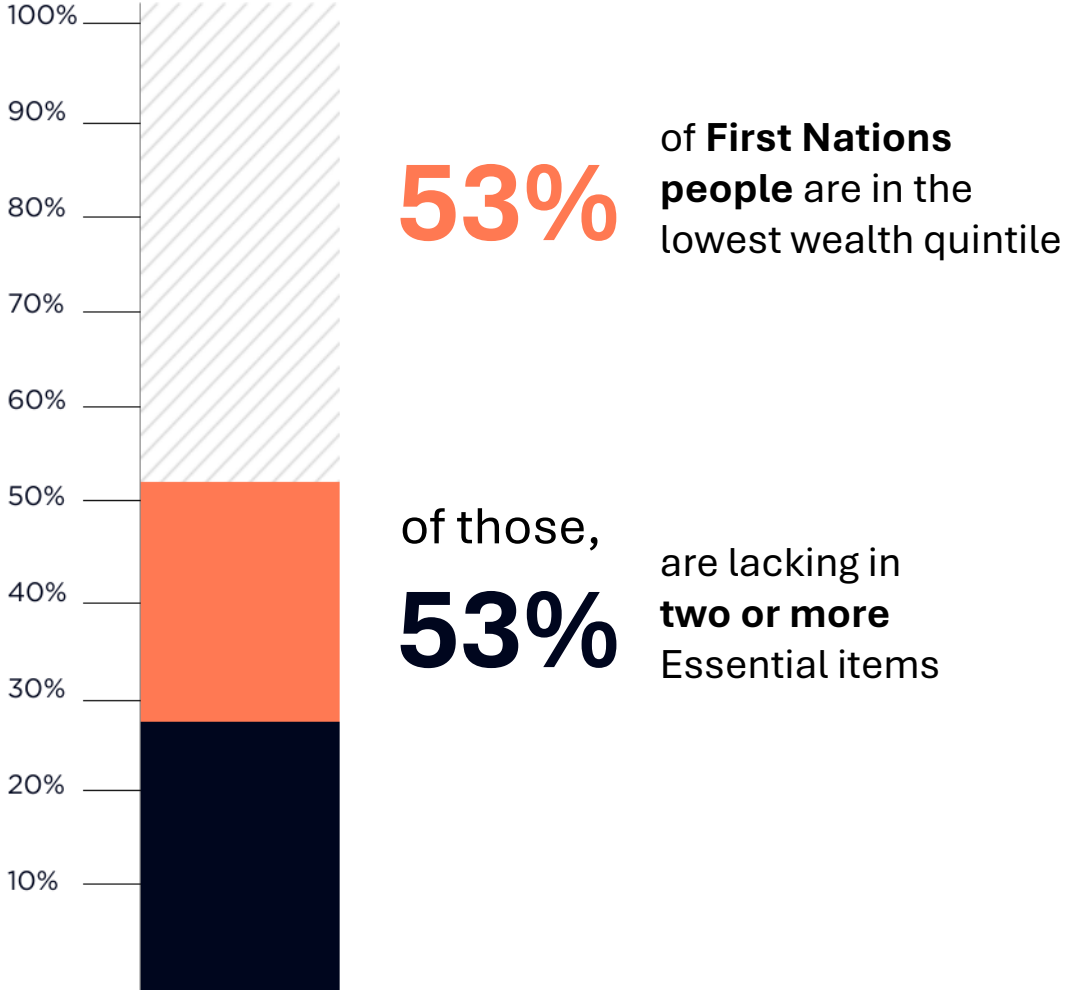
JobSeeker



Parenting Payment



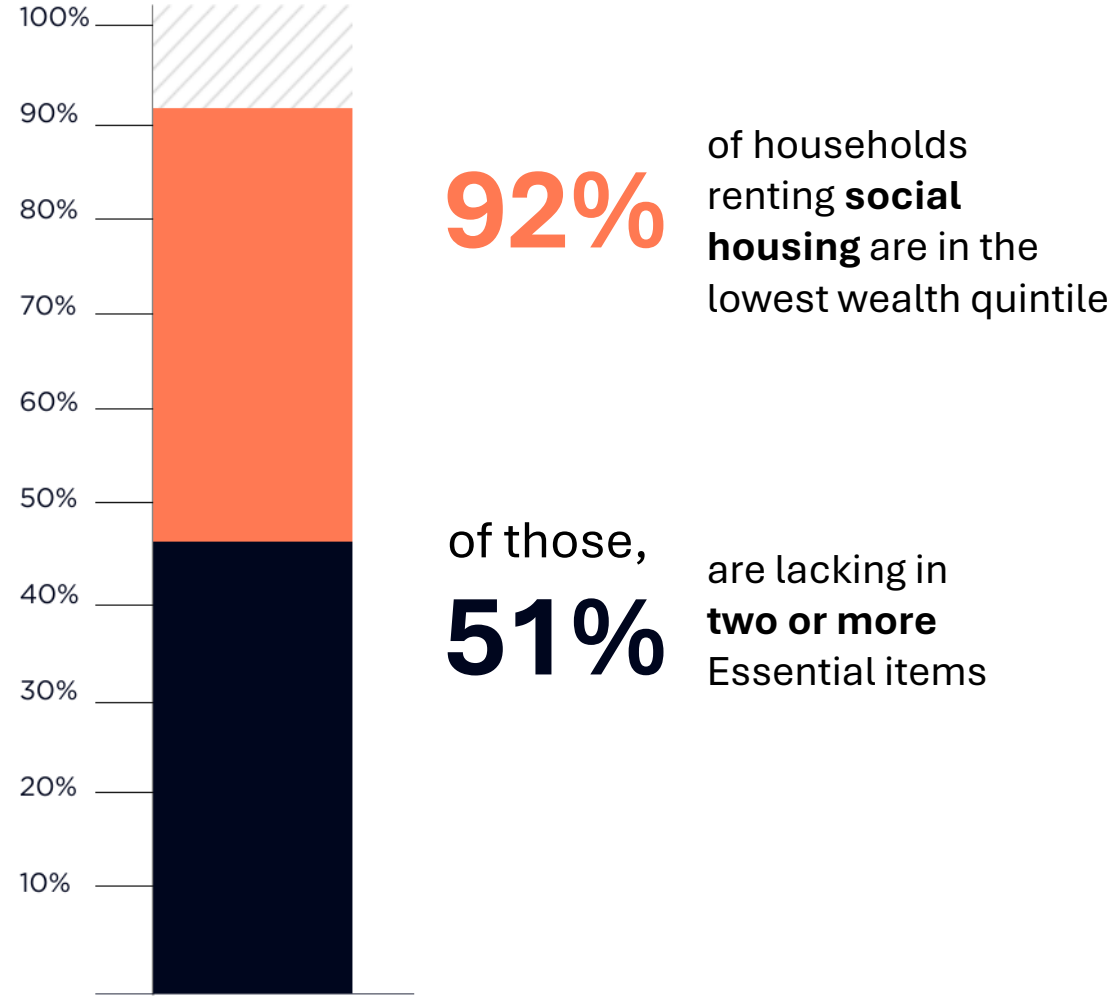
First Nations people



53% of **First Nations people** are in the lowest wealth quintile

of those, **53%** are lacking in **two or more Essential items**

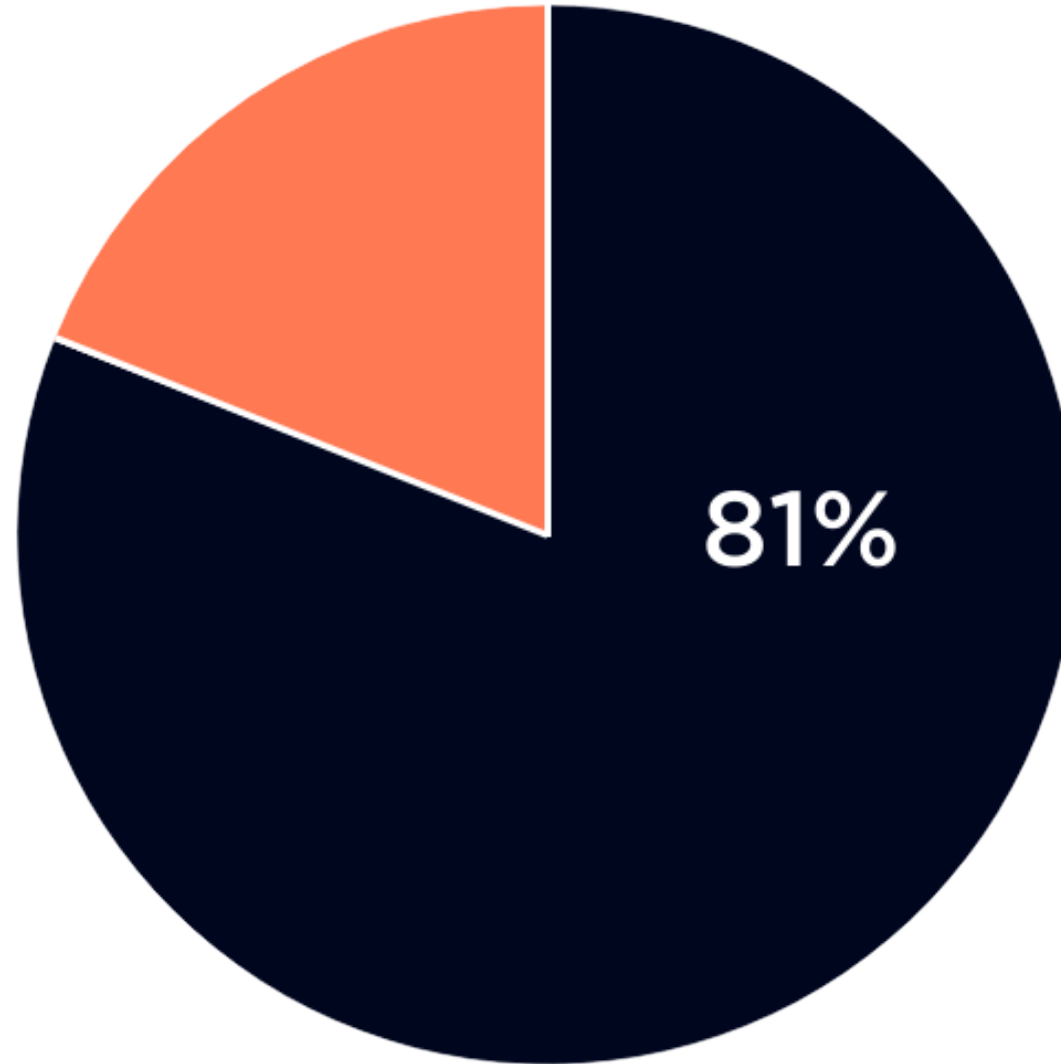
Households renting social housing



92% of households renting **social housing** are in the lowest wealth quintile

of those, **51%** are lacking in **two or more Essential items**

Living with low income, low wealth and material deprivation



Concluding thoughts

- + Many Australians lack essential items
- + These are core to a decent and socially acceptable standard of living in Australia
- + 8 key low income and wealth groups face a much higher risk of experiencing material deprivation
- + Many children and young adults experiencing multiple deprivation now are at risk of long-term social and economic exclusion
- + Income support payments are clearly inadequate
- + We need to do more to support people with barriers to work in paid employment
- + The ability to generate wealth plays an important role to protect against poverty

Read the full report

<https://bit.ly/3V0R9R0>

