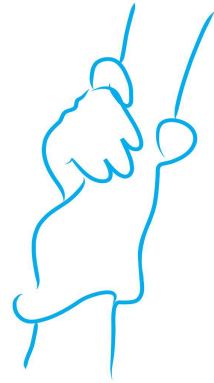


ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE: Australia's Largest Anti-Poverty Week Event Says 'Attack Poverty, Not The Poor'

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Dr. John Falzon, CEO of St. Vincent De Paul

Welfare recipients – job-seekers, Disability Pensioners, sole parents, students, carers, and others – will share their struggles, and challenge the federal government's tired old game of blaming and judging the poor for their plight, at Australia's biggest, most diverse *Anti-Poverty Week* event.

The *Attack Poverty, Not The Poor* conference, hosted by Anti-Poverty Network SA on Friday October 20/Saturday October 21 at Clayton Wesley Uniting Church, Beulah Park, is a rare opportunity to speak out, for those facing a grim labour market, inadequate Centrelink payments, and other policies.

“We have a clear message for Canberra: stop punishing those who through no fault of their own, are out of work, and start listening to the people in the firing line”, Anti-Poverty Network SA State Coordinator Pas Forgione said.

“Our meagre welfare payments contribute to 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 6 children living in poverty. Newstart is \$269 per week – \$160 per week below the poverty-line. Yet the government tells us as our welfare system is somehow too generous and too lenient.

Instead of more attacks – whether cashless welfare, forced drug-testing, or the stressful, time-wasting obligations imposed by government-funded job agencies – let's attack the real problems. It's the grim ratio of job vacancies vs. job-seekers – 1 job for every 11 job-seekers – that should be our focus, not the characters of the unemployed”, Mr. Forgione said.

Conference keynote speaker, St. Vincent De Paul CEO Dr. John Falzon said, “It's time we embraced a policy framework developed by the people who know the most about poverty: the people experiencing it!! It's time we embraced a framework that provides security rather than heightened insecurity; income adequacy rather than income management; respect rather than paternalism; dignity rather than demonisation.”

Attack Poverty, Not The Poor will include sessions on mental health, job agency mistreatment of the unemployed, skyrocketing electricity prices, the cruel restrictions on accessing the Disability Pension, why we should avoid following NZ's welfare reforms, and other critical topics.

FURTHER INFO: Anti-Poverty Network SA State Coordinator Pas Forgione, on 0411 587 663, or at antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com.