

MEDIA RELEASE – Low-Income People Gather In Adelaide For Unique Anti-Poverty Week Conference

What: “Speak Out!! Stand Up!! Ideas, Stories, And Action Against Poverty: A Two-Day Anti-Poverty Week Event”

Where: Clayton Wesley Uniting Church, Beulah Park, Adelaide

When: Friday October 16th and Saturday October 17th

Further Information: Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Pas Forgione on 0411 587 663 or at antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com.

One of the most diverse, innovative Anti-Poverty Week events in living memory will take place this month, as welfare recipients from South Australia and Victoria meet to discuss the struggle of being poor in Australia, as they face continuing attacks on their rights and well-being.

“Speak Out!! Stand Up!! Ideas, Stories, And Action Against Poverty: A Two-Day Anti-Poverty Week Event”, is a historic conference because it puts the lived experience and views of low-income people front-and-centre.

The event has been organised by Anti-Poverty Network SA, an alliance created by some of the most disadvantaged members of the community. Participants include sole parents, carers, unemployed workers, students, as well as Age and Disability Pensioners.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Pas Forgione said, 'This is the only Anti-Poverty Week event run by, and for, low-income people.'

'It is about those directly in the firing line, suffering from lack of jobs, inadequate income support payments, and harsh government policies, speaking for themselves, saying: “enough is enough; we are sick of being punished, we must be listened to.”'

'The event, the first of its kind, is a celebration of the resilience of those below the poverty-line, whose experience challenge widely-held myths.'

'It is also an honest, deeply personal exploration of the often misunderstood, and growing challenges and threats faced by poor people.'

Conference participant, Kat Lee, a single mum and older unemployed worker, said, 'This is a great chance for those doing it hard to have a voice, and tell how it really is for those living below the poverty-line.'

Conference sessions include conversations on unemployment, domestic violence, sole parents, Income Management, Work For The Dole, homelessness, health inequality, and disability, with those directly affected by these issues sharing the stage with policy experts, community leaders, and activists (see attached program for more information).