

# **MEDIA RELEASE: Mock Funeral And Protest: The Death Of The “Fair Go”**

**Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> 12 PM**

**A Theatrical Event Highlighting The Impacts Of The Federal Budget On Welfare**

The Anti-Poverty Network SA is hosting a mock funeral procession and service to draw attention to the devastating impacts of the Federal Budget on vulnerable members of the community.

This symbolic event will start on **Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> 12pm at the BMX Track in the Southern Park Lands in the City near the intersection of Greenhill Road and Unley Road on the north-western side**. Mourners will make their way along Greenhill Road, first to Business SA, then to Liberal Party SA HQ for the formal service.

Anti-Poverty Network SA Spokesperson Pas Forgione said, “The Abbott Government's announcements on welfare will severely damage our already weakened safety-net.”

“Australia is a low-spending country on welfare compared to the rest of the developing world. These cuts are unnecessary: it is possible to make savings without targeting those on low incomes, for example by cutting the billions of dollars spent on subsidies for the mining industry, negative gearing tax breaks, superannuation concessions for high-income earners, and other forms of assistance for the well-off and big business.”

“We will be targeting Business SA to remind the community that if savings need to be made, they can and should be made from other areas than social security. Instead, we will see further punishment of those already suffering from financial stress.”

“Job-seekers under 30 having to spend six months without Newstart if they have already been receiving the payment for six months, even when they are working part-time, is unfair and will lead to increased homelessness and substance abuse. The revival of Work For The Dole is extremely disappointing when there is no evidence the scheme helps people secure work. Both moves fail to recognise that there are not enough jobs to go around.”

“We believe that changing the indexation rates of the Age and Disability Support Pensions, which will cause these payments to increase at slower rates, and the cuts to Family Tax Benefits will only increase hardship.”

Aradia Sayner, group member and sole parent said, “As a parent, student, and someone with a disability, the changes announced in the Federal Budget will mean an already tight household budget will have to be cut even further to the detriment of my health.”

Nijole Naujokas, group member and student said, “As a student on a low income these measures will massively affect my future opportunities for study. The increased fees and deregulation will discourage me from study – I will not be able to afford it.”

Further Information: contact Anti-Poverty Network SA Spokesperson Pas Forgione at [antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com](mailto:antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com) or on 0411 587 663.