

End Inequality National Recommendations Statement

Australia, a nation no longer celebrated for its fair go, diversity and inclusive society must urgently confront the increasing inequality between those with the most and those with the least.

The protection of human rights covered by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* underpins this work, and adds support for a Human Rights Charter for Australia.

The End Inequality National Recommendations Statement (EINRS) is an initiative of Fight Against Inequality Network and a major part of our 2025 End Inequality Campaigns.

Recommendations

1.0 ECONOMIC EQUITY AND FAIRNESS

1.1 Broad-based Progressive Reform of Australian Tax System. It is critical to fund the public services, goods and public infrastructure that are a key driver of economic growth and also strengthen social cohesion. Some measures for raising public revenue:

- Crack down on tax avoidance and tax evasion.
- Enforce a fair effective tax rate on large multinational corporations operating in Australia
- Implement a minimum standard tax rate to effectively tax ultra-wealthy individuals
- Implement and enforce the government wide package of measures to combat the 'Black Market' (also called Shadow Economy) economy in Australia
- Reduce Capital Gains Tax discounts on residential properties from 50 per cent to 25 per cent.
- Abolish negative gearing for residential property investor owners with more than one investment residential property.

1.2 Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Provide targeted support for SMEs including 'worker and local cooperatives, social enterprises, and fair-trade businesses. These businesses owned and governed in the interest of workers, local communities, and the environment' need incentives to thrive.

1.3 Living Income Legislation. Introduce and enforce a community standard guaranteed living income as a fundamental human right that enables everyone to access food, clothing, education, health, housing, legal and leisure activities to support themselves and their families in a modern society.

2.0 EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Universal Access to Quality Education. Ensure that everyone, regardless of class, race, gender or diverse backgrounds have access to high-quality free public education from early childhood through to higher education.

- Invest in public provided and maintained pre-schools, primary and secondary schools and tertiary colleges/universities with appropriate staffing levels and safer workplaces.
- Provide essential resources for each sector: adequate buildings, recurrent funds, staff, modern teaching aides such as learning resources, education, class supplies, and maintenance budgets.
- Provide ongoing training support for teachers and teacher aides; tutors and lecturers to effectively deliver inclusive curricula.
- Re-introduce free university courses for all.

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- 2.2 Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning.** Expand free access to vocational training and lifelong learning programs to help individuals adapt to rapidly changing job markets.
- Provide free public programs that close skill gaps and offer pathways to meaningful employment.
- 3.0 HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY**
- 3.1 Universal Healthcare Services.** Strengthen the public healthcare system to ensure everyone has access to affordable and high-quality medical care. Address disparities in health outcomes by increasing investment in public provided preventive care and mental health services.
- 3.2 Address Regional Disparities.** Improve healthcare infrastructure and services in rural and remote areas to reduce health inequities between urban and regional communities.
- 4.0 PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**
- 4.1 Public Housing Initiatives.** Develop and implement policies to increase the availability of public housing. Support public housing projects and provide essential public services like health, employment and legal assistance within public housing estates.
- 4.2 Homelessness Prevention.** Expand programs and services aimed at preventing homelessness, including emergency housing, support for at-risk individuals, and pathways to stable, secure public housing.
- 5.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**
- 5.1 Strengthen Anti-Discrimination Laws.** Enhance anti-discrimination legislation to protect individuals against bias and discrimination in public life including age, class, disability, race, religion, political conviction, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. Promote a culture of diversity, inclusion and respect for all people.
- 5.2 Support for Marginalised Communities.** Implement targeted support programs for marginalised communities, including Indigenous Australians, people with disabilities, and minority groups, to address systemic barriers and promote equal opportunities.
- 6.0 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH**
- 6.1 Data Collection and Analysis.** Invest in research and data collection to better understand the causes and effects of inequality. Use this information as a guide to policy decisions and track progress.
- 6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation.** Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policies in reducing inequality. Regularly review and adjust strategies to ensure they remain effective and responsive to emerging challenges.

FAIN urges the Australian Government to prioritise reducing inequality by exposing the drivers of inequality and by urgently implementing a coordinated government-wide approach that makes Australia a more equitable and caring Australia based on human rights principles of peace, economic and social justice, democratic, and environmental sustainability.

Act Now

Start conversations with your community and those standing for the 2025 federal (re)election.

Endnotes

FAIN End Inequality National Recommendations Statement draws on findings from research studies, government and related reports, journal articles, print and online media articles, and others cited in the Endnotes. Recommendations Statement framework draws on ChatGPT with content adapted to FAIN human rights principles, priorities and concerns.

These Endnotes follow the point form of the recommendations.

Preamble: Human Rights Charter for Australia. Refer Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission's (AHRC) *Free and Equal Inquiry* in response to its *A Model for Positive Human Rights Reform in Australia* Discussion Paper

humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/sub_141_-_victoria_legal_aid.pdf

Point 1.1: Tax Justice Network Australia, *What is Tax Justice?*

taxjustice.org.au/what_is

Australian Taxation Office, *The Whole-of-Government Shadow Economy Action Plan*, updated 8 October 2024

ato.gov.au/about-ato/tax-avoidance/shadow-economy/the-whole-of-government-shadow-economy-action-plan

Oxfam International Briefing Paper, January 2024, *Inequality Inc: How Corporate Power Divides Our World and the need for a new era of public action*. In Oxfam words, this report shows the huge concentration of global corporate and monopoly power exacerbating inequality economy-wide.

oxfam.org.au/2024/01/inequality-inc/

oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/INEQUALITY-INC-Oxfam-Report-2024.pdf

Gabriel Zucman, 25 June 2024, *A Blueprint for a Coordinated Minimum Effective Taxation Standard for Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals*, commissioned by the Brazilian G20 presidency.

gabriel-zucman.eu/files/report-g20-slides.pdf

Point 1.2: Oxfam International, Briefing Paper, 21 January 2019, *Public Good or Private Wealth?*

oxfam.org/en/research/public-good-or-private-wealth

Point 1.3: United Workers Union, 1 November 2019, *Minimum Wage vs Living Wage in Australia*

lowpaynoway.unitedworkers.org.au/blog/living-wage-vs-minimum-wage-in-australia/

John Quiggin, et al; September 2020, *Liveable Income Guarantee*, TTPI – Policy Brief 4/2020, Transfer Policy Institute, The Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra

Point 2.1: Elizabeth Hill and Matt Wade, 2018, “The ‘Radical Marketisation’ of Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia”, and, Ben Spies-Butcher and Gareth Bryant, 2018, “Universities: A Paradox of Privatisation” both in Damien Cahill & Phillip Toner (Eds) *Wrong Way: How Privatisation & Economic Reform Backfired*, published by La Trobe University Press in conjunction with Black Inc, Carlton VIC Australia

The Australian Human Rights Commission, *Rights to Education*

humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/right-education

Point 2.2: Phillip Toner, 2018, “A Tale of Mandarins and Lemons: Creating the Market for Vocational Education and Training” in Damien Cahill & Phillip Toner (Eds) *Wrong Way: How Privatisation & Economic Reform Backfired*, published by La Trobe University Press in conjunction with Black Inc, Carlton VIC Australia

Bri Lee, 2021, *Who Gets to be Smart: Privilege, Power and Knowledge*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW Australia

Melbourne Polytechnic, 2 November 2023, *Embrace Lifelong Learning: Discover Why Education is a Journey Without End*
melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/about-us/news-and-events/news/discover-why-education-is-a-journey-without-end/

People's Inquiry into Privatisation November 2022, *Taking Back Control: A Community Response to Privatisation*
independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au/read-the-report-of-the-peoples-inquiry-here/

Point 3.1: Bob Davidson 2018, "The Marketisation of Aged Care in Australia", in Damien Cahill & Phillip Toner (Eds) *Wrong Way: How Privatisation & Economic Reform Backfired*, published by La Trobe University Press in conjunction with Black Inc, Carlton VIC Australia

Government Department of Health and Aged Care, *Building a Stronger Medicare*
health.gov.au/our-work/strengthening-medicare-measures/about

Point 4.1: Canales reports the Parliamentary Budget Office analysis shows that combined two generous tax breaks to residential property investors alone would cost the federal budget more than **\$165bn** over the next decade. Revenue foregone which could have been spent on public infrastructure like the supply of Public Housing for those on waiting lists across Australia, often living in misery while they wait, not to mention the growing demand for rental public housing.
theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/01/negative-gearing-and-capital-gains-tax-discounts-to-cost-australian-budget-165bn-over-10-years-analysis-reveals

Point 4.2: Homelessness Australia, 2023, *Homelessness Fact Sheet 2023*
homelessnessaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Homelessness-fact-sheet-2023-1.pdf

see also; FAIN Public Housing Campaigns: fainetwork.com/campaigns/housing-campaigns/

Point 5.1: Human Rights are a set of principles concerned with equality and fairness – the right of all people to equal treatment. Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), "Quick Guide to Discrimination Law" provides a more extensive discrimination definition.
humanrights.gov.au/education/employers/quick-guide-discrimination-law

see also; AHRC, *What Are Human Rights*: humanrights.gov.au/our-work/education/introduction-human-rights

Point 5.2: Oxfam International Briefing Paper, January 2024, *Inequality Inc: How Corporate Power Divides Our World and the need for a new era of public action*
oxfam.org.au/2024/01/inequality-inc/
oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/INEQUALITY-INC-Oxfam-Report-2024.pdf

Point 6.1: Adapted from ChatGPT content for FAIN to track progress to reduce inequality, and guide policy recommendations and actions.

Point 6.2: Adapted from ChatGPT content for FAIN to reflect monitoring and evaluation of inequality based on key measurable targets and annual reviews for effectiveness in reducing inequality.

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FAIN acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples – the First Australians – as the Owners and Custodians of the land never ceded upon which we work and live; the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.