



Australian Council of Social Service

From Hawke's child poverty pledge to today: have we lost our way on child poverty?

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Hawke's child poverty pledge



Hawke's child poverty package

Key components

- Family payments benchmarked to married rate of pension at different rates for children of different ages
- Payments linked to wage movements and therefore community living standards
- Payment rates increased
- Impact: 30% reduction in child poverty



What's happened since?

- The link between family payments and wages has been broken (Labor, 2009) = decline of \$20 pw
- The payment system has become more complex, with creation of poorly targeted bonus payments (e.g. Howard Gov'ts Baby Bonus and Labor's Schoolkids Bonus) – being progressively wound back
- Family payments have become more tightly targeted (FTB B income test reduced from \$150k-\$100k under Labor Gov't; Part B restricted to couples with children under 12 under current Gov't)
- Single parents with primary school aged children moved from Parenting Payment Single to Newstart (Howard's Welfare to Work then Rudd/Gillard)
- Single parents with young children excluded from pension increase (2009: Labor)
- Today: cuts to family payments before the Senate = \$50 per week cuts to single parent families



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