

Disrupting disadvantage: setting the scene

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CEDA's previous research

- Addressing entrenched disadvantage in Australia (2015)
- How unequal? Insights on inequality (2018)
- Community Pulse (2018)
 - 79% of Australians concerned about the gap between rich and poor
- Connecting People with Progress (2018)

Measures of disadvantage

Measures of disadvantage



Income poverty

2.2 million (9%) Australians live on less than half the median household income

700,000 Australians have been in income poverty continually for the past **four years**



Material deprivation

2.2 million (9%) Australians cannot afford essential items like food, housing and clothes



Social exclusion

More than 1 million Australians are deeply excluded from everyday social and economic connections

- **In income poverty for a substantial period of time**
- **Unable to afford basic items (material deprivation)**
- **Multidimensional disadvantage (social exclusion)**

Why hasn't Australia made more progress?

Problems with the current approach to disadvantage



Misinformation
in the public
debate



Government
programs failing to
keep pace



Addressing
symptoms and
not causes



Limited use
of evidence
and data



Not seeing the
full person



Lack of policy
consistency



Not enough focus on prevention



Poor management
of transitions
across life



Siloed approach
to services and
support

Developments over recent decades

Disadvantage in Australia 1998–2019

Economic growth %

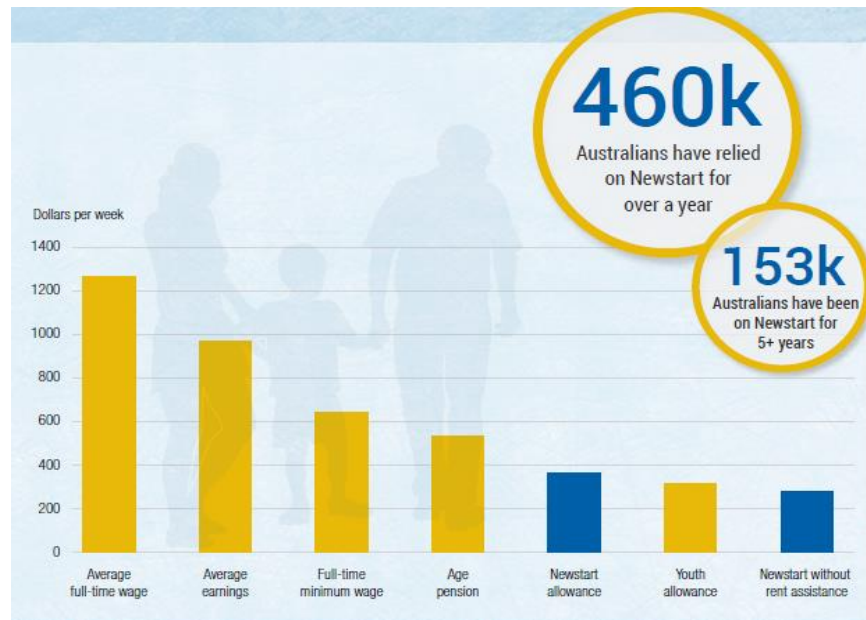
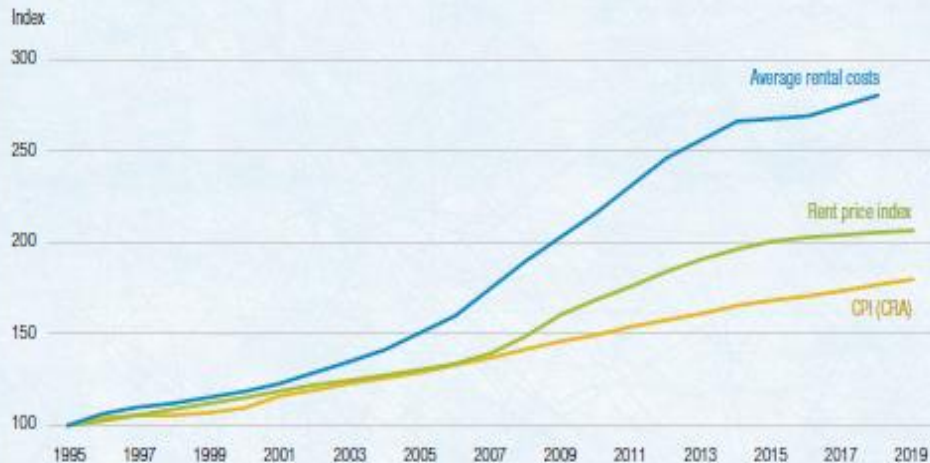


<p>ABS Household Expenditure Survey for 1998-99 identifies 600,000 Australians (3.1%) unable to afford two or more essentials.</p>	<p>McClure Welfare Review Green Paper released – Participation support for a more equitable society (August 2000)</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Program commenced in Victoria (2001)</p>	<p>Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) commenced (2004)</p>	<p>New Commonwealth Government Welfare to Work measures come into effect (July 2006)</p>	<p>Federal government Social Inclusion Board established (May 2008)</p>	<p>COAG agrees to National Indigenous Reform Agreement on closing the gap (July 2008)</p>	<p>Australia's future tax system is released, highlighting the widening gap between pensions and allowances like Newstart (May 2010)</p>	<p>Social Inclusion Board report suggests 5% of working age population (640,000) experience multiple and complex disadvantage (August 2012)</p>	<p>Productivity Commission Staff Working Paper on Deep and Persistent Disadvantage in Australia (July 2013)</p>	<p>Baseline valuation report published to inform priority investment approach to welfare (June 2016)</p>	<p>Brotherhood of Saint Laurence Social Exclusion Monitor finds more than 1 million Australians in deep social exclusion in 2016.</p>	<p>Productivity Commission Rising inequality? A stocktake of the evidence finds 700,000 people in income poverty continuously for the last four years (August 2018)</p>
<p>Stronger families and communities strategy launched by Howard Government (includes Communities for Children program, which still exists today) (May 2001)</p>	<p>SA Premier Mike Rann establishes a Social Inclusion Initiative shortly after taking office in February 2002.</p>	<p>Australians Working Together new mutual obligation and participation requirements for jobseekers introduced (July 2002)</p>	<p>600,000 Australians (4%) experiencing an overlap of income poverty, financial deprivation and social exclusion in 2006. (Saunders & Wong)</p>	<p>660,000 Australians (4%) experiencing an overlap of income poverty, financial deprivation and social exclusion in 2010. (Saunders & Wong)</p>	<p>Rudd Government introduces Better Futures Local Solutions place-based program (August 2011)</p>	<p>Social Inclusion Board disbanded (September 2013)</p>	<p>McClure Review of Australia's welfare system, A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes released (February 2015)</p>	<p>Australian Government announces \$96.1 million Try, Test & Learn Fund to trial innovative approaches to assisting most vulnerable (May 2016)</p>	<p>Employment Services 2020 Report released (December 2018)</p>			

Selected developments

Policy not keeping pace

Growth in rents vs Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)



Areas of focus



MOBILISE DATA
TO HELP THOSE AT RISK



IMPROVE
NAVIGATION OF SERVICES



INVEST
IN A STRONGER SAFETY NET



GET SERIOUS
ABOUT EVIDENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

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