



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Budget Analysis: Mallee Family Care Spotlights Poverty Challenges and Solutions

Mallee Family Care welcomes the recent announcement of the May 2023-2024 budget, which includes some positive measures, such as withdrawing the ParentsNext program and increasing wages for people working in aged care, most of whom are low-paid women. Additionally, we appreciate the allocation of \$300 million to improve the energy efficiency of approximately 60,000 social housing properties across Australia.

However, poverty remains a significant issue that needs to be addressed, and we acknowledge that the budget falls short in this regard. Despite the increase in JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and Rent Assistance, more than one million Australians continue to struggle with poverty and find it challenging to obtain proper housing and fulfill their basic needs.

Chief Executive Officer of Mallee Family Care, Ms Teresa Jayet, said:

"While we welcome the measures in the budget that support families and vulnerable Australians, we are disappointed that poverty has not been addressed adequately. Poverty affects many communities across Australia, and the Mallee region is no exception."

"Poverty is a complex issue that can affect anyone at any time in their lifetime. More and more people are coming through our doors seeking support for the first time, which highlights the need for sustained, comprehensive efforts to address the underlying causes of poverty."

"We see the devastating impact of poverty every day in our work supporting families and individuals, and it is not only affecting people's financial well-being, but also their overall mental health and quality of life."

"Poverty requires multifaceted solutions that provide immediate relief, while addressing the underlying causes, such as lack of access to education and training, job opportunities, healthcare, and affordable housing."

"Adequately supporting the sector that provides the support in the community, is critical to address the rising demand for our services from individuals and families who are experiencing poverty, especially for the first time."

Mallee Family Care acknowledges the budget strides forward on various fronts and we look forward to working with government to ensure the community sector is sufficiently covered and funded to provide essential services to the Mallee community. However, we are also calling on the government to prioritise addressing poverty in future budgets so we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in the Mallee region.

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