

MEDIA RELEASE

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2019 Morrison Government Budget Fails Australia

CANBERRA – The Australian Progressives have stated that the 2019 budget does little to alleviate the long-term consequences of poverty or to improve the welfare of older Australians and other citizens receiving social support.

National President of the Australian Progressives Robert Knight stated, “The 2019 Morrison Government budget is merely an election show pony designed to buy off uncertain voters for the May Federal election. The 2019 budget does nothing to address the long-term consequences associated with social and economic inequality.

“It seems the Morrison government just wants to buy the good will of Australians by, for example, allocating a one-off payment to pensioners to offset the costs of energy consumption - and of course this budget does absolutely nothing to lift the Newstart allowance rate off the floor,” he continued.

The Australian Progressives’ policy is to immediately review social support payments to ensure no Australian lives in abject poverty.

“Moreover,” added Knight, “until we complete a full review of both the Newstart allowance and the Aged Pension, we would look to immediately increase Newstart and Aged Pensions in line with current indexation to help improve the lives of unemployed people and elevate the standard of living for older Australians living on the Aged Pension only.”



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Mr Knight, who is also standing as the Australian Progressives federal candidate for the seat of Canberra, commented that the Australian Progressives would retain measures to prevent wealth transfer through asset shifting to ensure the right people received the benefit they are entitled to receive.

“We would also remove the inherent disincentives to work in the current payment structures and implement progressive means testing to prevent income loss as wages increase and negate excess tax rates,” he said. - ENDS

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