



THE
GOOD SOCIETY
POLICY NETWORK

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This list includes brief descriptions of policy options identified as likely to signal social wellbeing and perceived trust in governments.

The summaries below include both some already being developed, and others identified as needed, but requiring work. They meet the criteria of contributing to restoring voter/people's trust that social needs and equity goals are being addressed by those in power.

Please suggest other items for inclusion. The format for the more detailed distributable versions, to be used for advocacy and lobbying, is available in the contributor section, if you want to sign on:

Short Term changes to welfare payments	
Raise Newstart payments by \$90 pw and index to CPI	The rate is too low and too many depend long term
Reintroduce sole parent payment with kids 8 -15	More parenting time is required for older children
Stop Cashless Welfare Card Trials but not services	No evidence control works & services skew 'trial'
Establish less severe criteria for claimant of DSP	Unlikely to find jobs and income too low to live on
Ensure Age Pension adequacy for retirees with no super	Adequate for dignity for carers, others lacking super

Community and other services	
Set Federal/state funding plans to allow equitable access	Market models do not reflect socio-cultural needs
Engage serious local communities' inputs into plan	Top down decisions are very often seriously flawed
Abolish competitive tendering, encourage local groups	Local collaboration is necessary for effective services
Ensure ongoing funding is renewable for good services	Short term, limited contracts limit effectiveness
Offer more support and resources to local/special groups	Encourages those with local links that are needed
Fund and establish local collaborations support structures	Share skills and knowledge of expertise and links

Particular Needs Groups	
Address flawed market NDIS to creates effective supports	Mental health disability definitions are confused
Ensure all clients of NDIS can be well supported/protected	Local links are needed to protect customer rip offs
Link up NDIS individual workers to ensure fair conditions	The market model can make workers vulnerable

Fair Access to Services/Jobs	
Expand community-based funding to expand services	Community jobs are hard to employ for

Housing	
Increased capital funds for more city social housing	High housing costs creating more homelessness
Offer tax incentives for investing in long term rentals	Ensure that continuing renters can have security

Medium Term UBI Trial	
Banish all conditional controls over welfare payments	Controls should be response to individual cases needs
Transfer to a UBI those on Income management trials	Cut complex admin \$ and trials/evaluates effects
Recognise agency and control as part of rights of payees	Limit arbitrarily set controls on income payments

Children's Services	
Set govt control by funding service contracts to meet needs	Fix locations, fees, places etc to improve user access
Ensure all children can access services & quality care	Care must meet child needs as well as parental
Ensure local CC services link with local communities etc	Families need local links &, community belonging
Adjust funding formula to ensure fair fees and access	Too many services impose high fees, no controls

Women's Crisis Services	
Ensure separate ample funding for women's DV services	DV services meet complex needs, not just housing
Access to DV crisis payment regardless of visa status	Helps foreign 'brides' need to leave DV men
Offer funding again for Australian Women's Health Network	Provides needed advice including on DV issues
Offer temporary visas to let sex workers to work here legally	Stops unfair exploitative brothel owners/sex slavery

Gender Inequity	
Retain current Govt Paid Parental Leave as minimum	Extra time needed to enhance parent/baby time
Set date to extend PPL to 26 weeks + 6wks partner leave	Encourage partners to take more .meet ILO level
Include super contrib. with PPL govt payments	PPL is more like other leave, workplace entitled
Align eligibility for Nat Emp. Standard leave with PPL pay	Match unpaid leave & pay eligibility to keep jobs
Fund equal pay gender based skills review to adjust pay	Legislate to fix adjusted gender biased pay rates
Subsidise pay rise for all child care workers in new packet	Underpay and high turnover damages service quality
Counter sexist stereotyping by funding school programs	Counter macho masculinity & too passive femininity

Immigration	
Process asylum seekers in region and set up real queue	Low cost undercuts smugglers' business plan
Close Manus/Nauru, process here & resettle elsewhere	Discourage smuggler and stop persecution
Triple total refugee entrants, offer hope in region	Will undermine the smugglers business plan
Add staff to process all leftover asylum seekers in limbo	Insecure, many have no rights to work/study etc
Let asylum seekers access Universities & TAFE fee help	They stay, we benefit if not they have more skills
Open centres, stop controls over workers & visitors reports	Interim means to limit secret controls and damage

First Nations Specific Concerns	
Accept the Uluru recommendations and fund them	We all need the voice, treaties and truth telling
Recognise self-determined/cultural/local decisions	Current funding via capital cities is not effective
Fund local communities to improve safety and care	Building community wellbeing reduced crime etc
Restore original CDEP to create local needed services	Community control and decisions upgrade lives
Fund the NACCHO Indigenous health planning models	The evidence is there, local based decisions work
Abolish competitive tendering top down funding models	This is why IAS model didn't and couldn't work
Fund Indigenous-run treaty planning processes	Negotiate between equals for just outcomes
Fund National Congress to continue	Needed source of advice/better evidence
Double current rangers every 3 yrs & fund long term	Successful, useful, valuable so must extend further
Fund language retention & ESL teaching for children	Value multilingual First Australian contributions
Mandate Indigenous Cultural Training for educators	Improve services knowledge and increase use
Ensure First Nations self-determination as crucial inputs	The evidence is that this delivers quality services
Reinstate /expand Budget Based direct CC funding model	Direct funding best for Indigenous/complex services

Industrial Related Issues	
Replace part time and full-time work with flexibility	Changing status to productivity valuing not hrs
Recognise that productivity is higher with shorter hrs	Lots of research shows long hours are not good
Use technology & social changes to shorten all wk hrs	Give both men and women time to share care
Reward skills and competencies by their social value.	Skills and pay are still biased by gender origins

Reclaiming trust between representatives and voters

Establish a National Commission to consult and devise Social Contracts of agreed goals and plans for the various levels of governance and delivery. These should include views of all levels of citizens, broadly defined, communities of interest and localities, and the markets sectors. The above report should clarify the appropriate roles and formal responsibilities of elected bodies, public servants, corporations, public institutions, and groupings such as community/not for profit/co-ops/mutuals, identity and specialised groupings as well as informal deliverers of care and supports, both paid and unpaid.