

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Two million Australians live in poverty today – one in every ten. (ACOSS)

58% of Indigenous Australians are at risk of poverty. (ABS)

15% of Australian children live in poverty. 800,000 are raised in homes where no one has a job. (ACA/ACOSS)

Most of the poorest 20% of families in Australia are jobless. 80% of these poorest families rely on social security payments as their main income. (UCA)

In 2007, UNICEF found Australia to have the 14th highest rate of child poverty in OECD nations.

In 2006, one in every 17 people who sought assistance from a community service agency had to be turned away. (ACOSS)

Poverty is not just economic, but impacts wider health and wellbeing. Those living in poverty have to choose between essentials, for example school books or food, health care or rent.

The 2004 Senate Inquiry into Poverty recommended a National Poverty Strategy be developed. This has not been pursued.

Low official unemployment figures do not include those with only a few hours of work per week.

Structural inequalities that significantly increase poverty include unequal access to work, income, education, housing, health and community services.

Material in this information sheet is significantly drawn from the Uniting Church in Australia's Federal Election 2007 resource kit *Growing a Nation of Hope*.