



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

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FIX INFLATION PAIN BY LOWER PETROL PRICES & LOWER GROCERY PRICES

Families continue to be slugged at the supermarket checkout and the petrol pump by soaring inflation, while the Federal government refuses to cut petrol tax and refuses to implement "comparative pricing" on supermarket shelves. Both these measures will help counter the crippling effects of inflation on family budgets and put downward pressure on inflation.

Consumer Price Index figures released today show inflation has jumped to more than 4% with food price inflation almost 6% and petrol at 5.4%.

Lower Petrol Prices:

"Families are feeling the pain of skyrocketing petrol prices and Family First has a plan to cut petrol tax by 10 cents a litre, which would provide immediate relief to families struggling to make ends meet while also putting downward pressure on inflation," Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

"The Rudd government can't fight a war on inflation without cutting petrol tax. Petrol tax is one factor the Government can control in fighting inflation. More than 50 cents in the price of every litre of petrol goes to the government in tax. Families in the outer suburbs and regional areas in particular deserve a break from the crippling effects of inflation.

Lower Grocery Prices:

Family First will introduce legislation into the Senate next month that will make it mandatory for supermarkets to display unit pricing to keep costs down by allowing families to compare products and find the cheapest prices.

"Comparative pricing is all about displaying the prices of grocery items in a per unit form. This allows shoppers to quickly compare items to select the cheapest product on a per unit basis like the price per kilogram, per litre or per item. Families could save thousands of dollars a year in their grocery bills. With the cost of food soaring by 5.7% over the past year, introducing comparative pricing is a no brainer." Senator Fielding said.

"The cost of food is a big part of every family's budget and the fact that food prices have been increasing faster than the inflation rate means that families are really having a hard time making ends meet."

Unit pricing can mean big dollar savings for families. A survey of just 25 items shows that consumers could save up to 47% by comparing prices and buying the cheapest product. This reduces the grocery bill by \$44 from \$94 to \$49.

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