



FAMILY FIRST



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BUDGET HELPS WORKING FAMILIES BUT FAILS VULNERABLE AUSTRALIANS

Working families will be happy to get the promised tax cuts, but this budget has failed vulnerable Australians.

Failed Pensioners

Australia's 3.4 million pensioners are our overlooked Australians and are really struggling to make ends meet. Pensioners will get some help from a number of one-off payments but the Government has failed to increase the pension. The Government has also failed to give them long term security as the small one-off payments are not budgeted for in future years.

That is why Family First wants to increase the pension and give all pensioners across the country an extra \$70 a fortnight to cope with skyrocketing petrol and grocery prices.

Failed Families in Outer Suburban and Regional Areas

Families in the outer suburbs and regional areas who are hit hardest by skyrocketing petrol prices have not been given any relief at the petrol bowser.

Lower income and first homebuyers tend to live in the outer suburbs where housing is cheaper BUT has insufficient public transport. This means they depend on their cars, which means they suffer more from punishing petrol prices.

The Rudd Government's first budget should have cut petrol tax by 10 cents a litre to give families immediate relief at the petrol bowser.

Also, to ease the long term pain from higher petrol prices, the Federal Government should have announced investment in public transport infrastructure and capacity in the outer suburbs and regional areas on top of state government funding.

That's why Family First has been calling for a \$1 billion annual public transport fund.

Failed to address short term inflationary pressures

We all know that petrol is the single biggest contributor to the current high inflation rate and that's why this budget should have cut the petrol tax to put immediate downward pressure on inflation.

Failed to give Families real choice in Child Care

The government has increased the Child Care Tax Rebate, which will help those families that can afford institutional child care. But what about those families that choose to use a family member or a friend and get no extra assistance in this budget?

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