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**Introductory statement (to be included each week)**

We can Build a Fairer Australia - in the coming months St Vincent de Paul Society nationally will be releasing some ideas on how to improve the quality of life for all Australians, and how to find the funds to make Australia fairer.

If this is of interest to you and you would like to comment or hear more, you are welcome to contact the SA Social Needs Analysis and Advocacy Committee – Jennifer Harvey on 8112 8702 or at [svdp@svdpsa.org.au](mailto:svdp@svdpsa.org.au)

**Messaging (1 per week following the Introductory Statement)**

**Week 1**

**\***Currently around 3,240,000 Australians, more than 13 percent of the total population, are living below the poverty line. Some 774,000 are children - one in six of all Australian children. Providing a safety net for these households is both a challenge and a responsibility. Increased access to medical bulk billing could be one first step.

Ref: The Canberra Times (25/11/2024) Mark Gaetani (National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society)

**Week 2**

\*Housing is a human right. We can work together to improve homelessness support through increased needs-based funding for homelessness services, implementing national minimum standards for renters, who account for one-third of Australian households, and legislating the National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Ref: The Canberra Times (25/11/2024) Mark Gaetani (National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society)

**Week 3**

\*We can help close the Gap for First Nations peoples and help make progress towards human dignity for all through expanding community-led programs and services that keep children safe and prevent the over-representation of young people in the criminal justice system. We can advocate for appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with the priorities and needs of First Nations families.

Ref: The Canberra Times (25/11/2024) Mark Gaetani (National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society)

**Week 4**

\*Incredibly, Australia’s poverty rate has steadily increased over the past two decades, with survey data suggesting the rate of poverty is at its highest since 2001. In order to lift people out of poverty Australia needs to increase the base rate of working-age support and family and domestic violence payments.

Ref: The Canberra Times (25/11/2024) Mark Gaetani (National President of The St Vincent de Paul Society)