

MEDIA RELEASE

More Community Services Lose Funding Today Due to 'Saving Measures'.

1 JULY 2015

Today, even more Australian community services will not be able to offer support to people in our society who need it the most.

This is due to the ceasing of even more funding to community and social services across as part of the Federal Government's so-called 'saving measures.' Savings that come into effect today.

Since 2013, the Abbott Government has announced \$1 billion in cuts to the Social and Community Sector and The Services Union is now urging Minister for Social Services, Scott Morrison to do the right thing and Invest In Quality Community Services.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union, Jennifer Thomas said the impact of these cuts is already being felt right across the country by the most vulnerable people in our communities.

"We have already seen \$500 million cut over five years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community services; \$270 million over four years from social services and a freeze on indexation of sector funding; \$15 million from the community legal sector and its foreshadowed cuts of \$197 million over three years from health," Ms. Thomas said

"What is also very distressing is that in a year when our Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty is campaigning for more support for survivors of domestic and family violence, we have a Federal Government cutting funding to community services that support these people."

"This is just ludicrous and although some gap funding has been delivered by Federal Government recently, there is still a massive shortfall," Ms Thomas said.

The Services Union is not going to stand by and let the Abbott Government attack the organisations, workers or clients that make up the community sector.

"Today, we have launched a Change.org petition calling on Minister Morrison to be proactive in his portfolio in ensuring all people living in Australia have access to the care they need," Ms Thomas said.

"We will be out there campaigning, engaging our members, so the Abbott Government hears our voice and voices of the wider community saying, that not investing in community services is just unfair and frankly just 'un Australian!'"

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