



ANTI-POVERTY
16 - 22 October 2016 **WEEK**

2016 | Cost of Living



Poverty?

- Why should we care about poverty?

When someone misses out it diminishes us all

- Australia is a wealthy country
- We just had a decade of unparalleled growth

... but failed to reduce our poverty rate

- More inequality & More child poverty



INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

A NATION DIVIDED

Poverty in Australia 2016

- Three million Australians living in poverty (13.3%)
- Three quarters of a million children in poverty
- Child poverty has grown 2% in last decade (to 17.4%)
- 240,000 Western Australians living in poverty
(an underestimate based on national median)
- 150,000 Western Australians at risk of poverty

A decorative header banner featuring silhouettes of various people in a park-like setting. On the left, there's a yellow speech bubble icon. The silhouettes include a person sitting on a bench, a person standing, a person in a wheelchair, and a person sitting on the ground. The background is a light green color with a dark green border at the bottom.

WACOSS Cost of Living Report

- Produced annually since 2007
- Examines three household models:
 - Working family
 - Single parent family
 - Unemployed single

Income and Expenditure

	Income	Expenditure	Net Position
Single Parent Family	\$978.00	\$905.92	\$72.08
Working Family	\$1,425.59	\$1,294.62	\$130.97
Unemployed Single	\$310.46	\$343.67	-\$33.21

Single Parent Family

Single parent family (Parenting Payment Single) - WEEKLY DIFFERENCE

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total weekly income	\$931.38	\$944.12	\$978.00
Total expenditure	\$966.64	\$938.17	\$905.92
Difference	-\$35.26	\$5.95	\$72.08

Working Family

Working family - WEEKLY DIFFERENCE

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total weekly income	\$1,352.25	\$1,397.49	\$1,425.59
Total expenditure	\$1,342.62	\$1,321.44	\$1,294.62
Difference	\$9.63	\$76.05	\$130.97

Unemployed Single

Unemployed single - WEEKLY DIFFERENCE

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total weekly income	\$297.36	\$304.65	\$310.46
Total expenditure	\$358.00	\$353.49	\$343.67
Difference	-\$60.64	-\$48.83	-\$33.31

Inequality

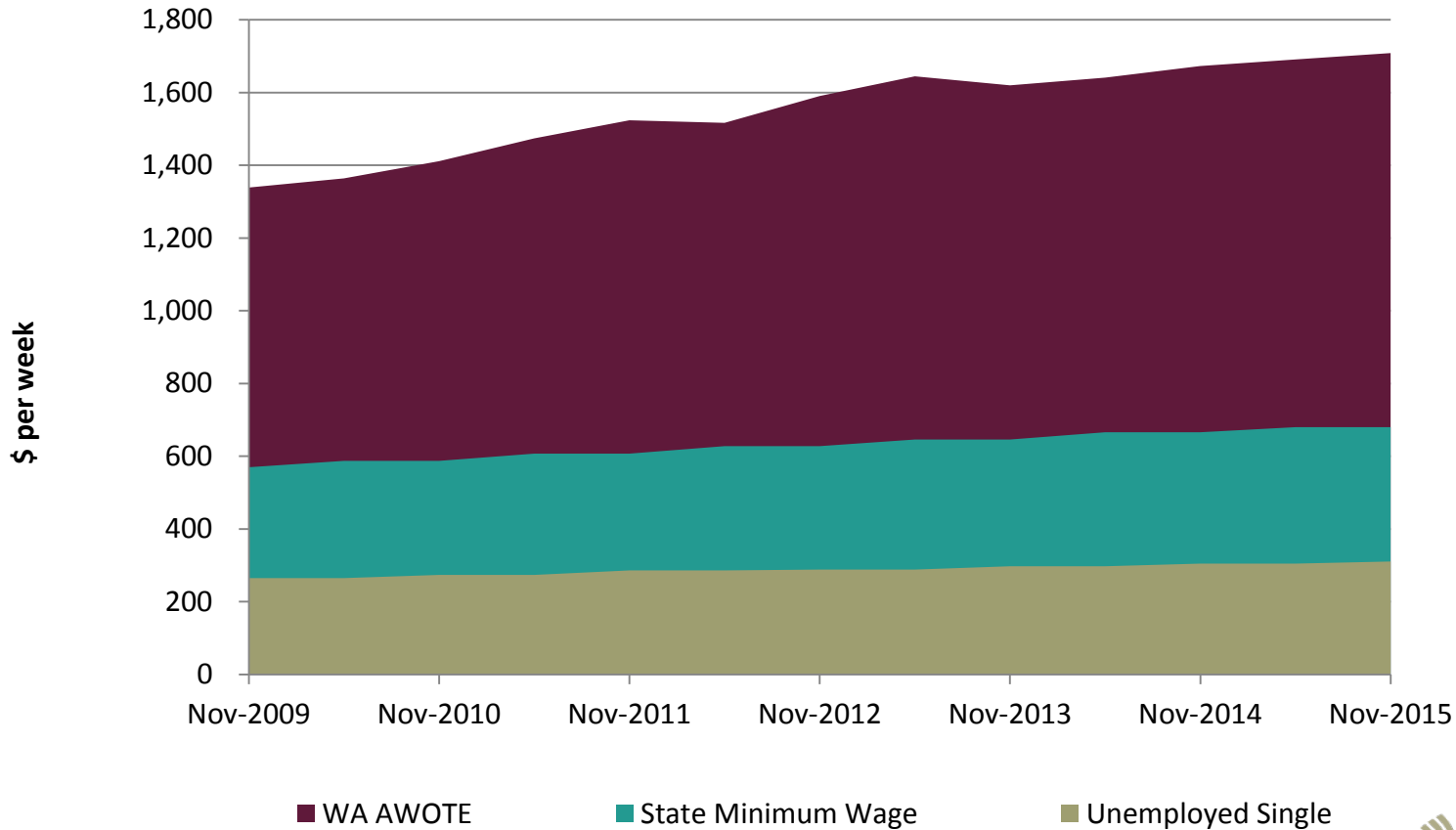
	Gini Coefficient
WA	0.371
NSW	0.345
Australia	0.333
Queensland	0.325
Victoria	0.314
SA	0.291
Tasmania	0.281
ACT	0.272
NT	0.268

Western Australians in Poverty

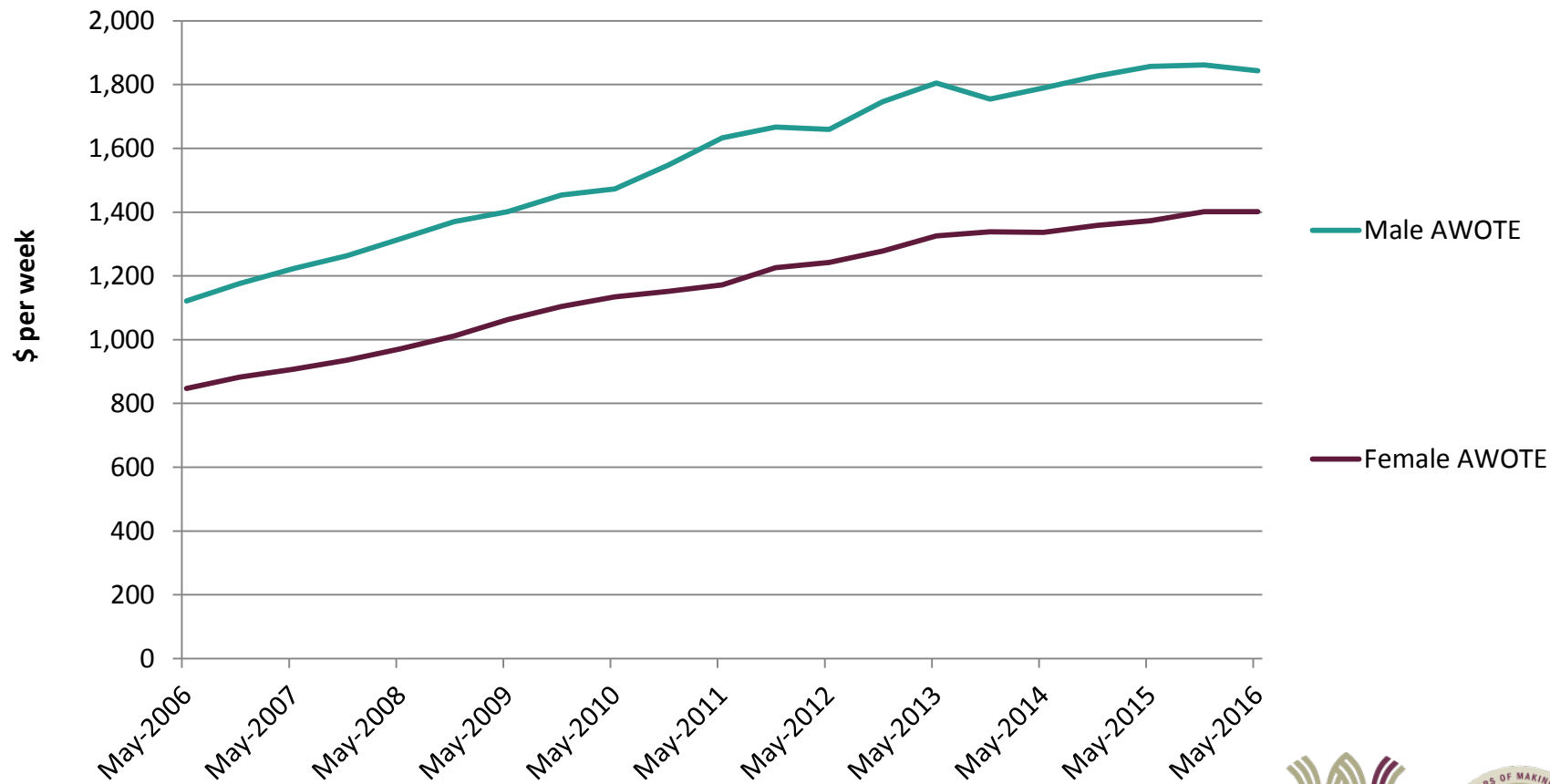
Standard Poverty Line:
160,000

After-Housing Costs
Poverty Line:
200,000

Growing Inequality ...



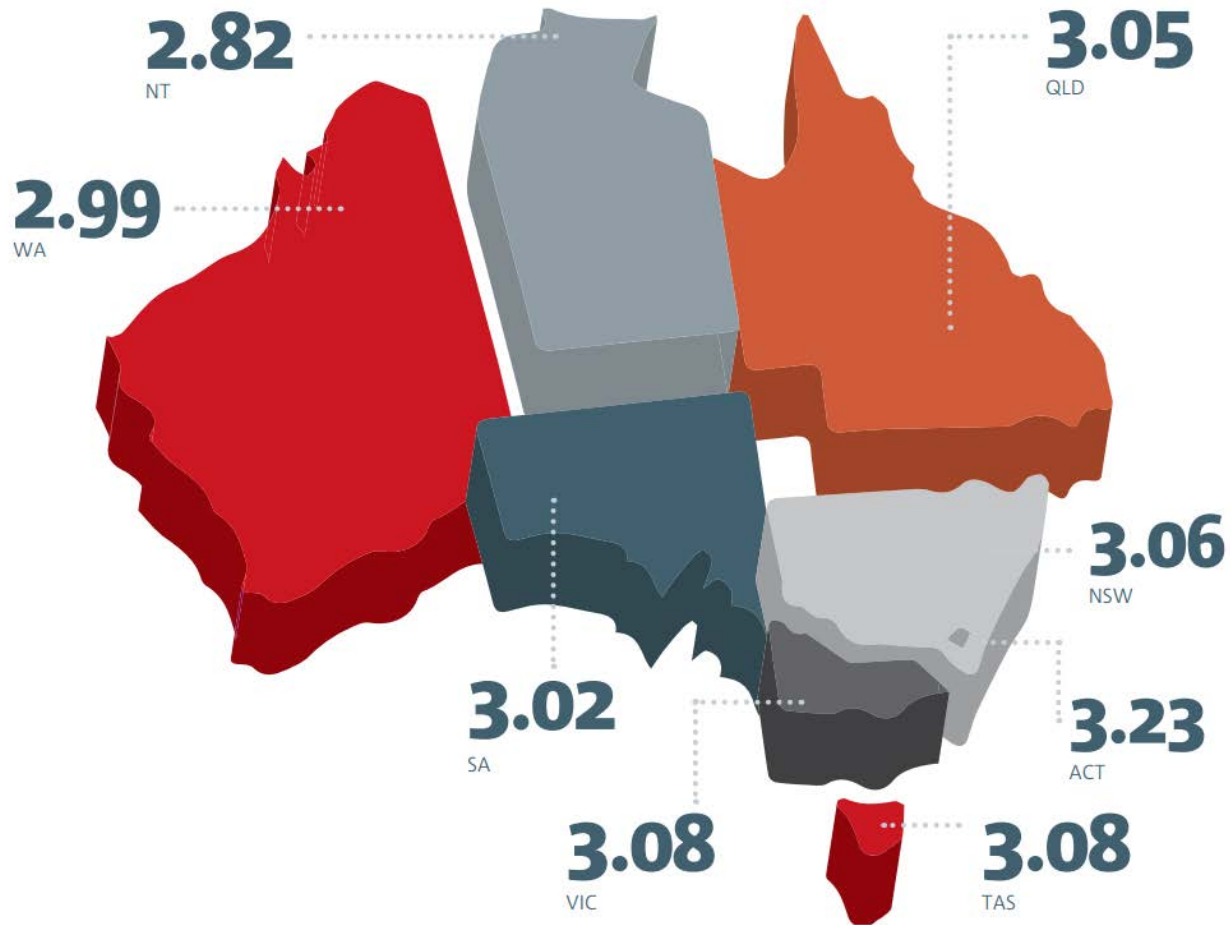
Gender Inequality



Rising Underemployment



Financial Resilience



Source: Centre for Social Impact, *Financial Resilience in Australia*, August 2016

Recommendations..

- That the Commonwealth increase the adequacy of income support and rent assistance to close the gap between incomes and basic living costs
- That the Commonwealth consider tax settings to
 - Encourage institutional investment in affordable rental; or
 - Limit negative gearing to affordable and social housing only
- That the State advocates to the WA Industrial Relations Commission for a sufficient increase in the State Minimum Wage to address growing income inequality

Recommendations

- That the State restores the funding cut from metropolitan financial counselling services in 2015/16
- An independent cross-government inquiry into social concessions by the Economic Regulatory Authority to improve the targeting, adequacy and impact of existing expenditure
- Introduce a no-fault catastrophic injury insurance concession so car ownership remains affordable for low-income households
- Reverse the cuts to Legal Assistance, and provide adequate and sustainable long-term funding for community legal centres.