



Cost of Living 2018 - Snapshot

Model Households



The weekly income of the unemployed single remains inadequate to meet basic living costs, with a gap of \$13.27 between income support provided and a basic standard of living in line with community expectations.



The single parent family has \$107.19 left after meeting their estimated basic living costs. The decline in government income supplements, particularly the cancellation of the Schoolkids Bonus, has resulted in very low income growth for the household.



While the home-owning age pensioner comes out \$200.81 ahead, the renting age pensioner has only \$91.05 after meeting their basic living costs.



The income of the working family surpasses their estimated basic living costs by \$228.75 per week. With their access to two sources of wages, they are in the best position of the model households.

Financial Counselling Data



Housing was on average the most significant cost for all households who received financial counselling in 2017/18, comprising 45.5% of their general expenditure.

Wages comprised 79.4% of the average incomes of Perth households who received financial counselling.

Regional households in financial hardship were on average more reliant on social security payments, with wages making up less than half of their average income.

Though the average debt levels of the low-income households who received financial counselling were lower than the mean of all the households, they had a higher debt to income ratio.

Weekly income and expenditure of model households

	Income	Expenditure	Net Position
Single Parent Family	\$983.20	\$876.01	\$107.19
Working Family	\$1,456.62	\$1,227.77	\$228.75
Unemployed Single	\$308.25	\$321.53	-\$13.27
Age Pensioners (Renters)	\$791.40	\$700.35	\$91.05
Age Pensioners (Home Owners)	\$728.56	\$527.76	\$200.81

Fortnightly mean income and expenditure of households who sought financial counselling

	Income	General Expenditure	Debt Payments	Surplus/Deficit	Debt to Income Ratio
All WA	\$1,740.29	\$1,591.25	\$290.78	-\$141.74	16.7%
Perth	\$1,837.08	\$1,720.43	\$287.89	-\$171.24	15.7%
Regional	\$1,770.34	\$1,525.21	\$329.51	-\$84.39	18.6%
Low-income	\$1,120.39	\$1,071.30	\$240.57	-\$191.48	21.5%

Average % of expenditure - financial counselling clients

