

# Cost of Living 2019 - Snapshot

## Model Households

This modelling of the income and expenditure of five different household 'types' reveals the pressures in covering basic living costs, such as housing, utilities, food and transport. It does not include the unexpected and unbudgeted costs that are part of everyday life.



The weekly income of the model unemployed single remains inadequate to meet basic living costs, with a gap of \$16.43 between income support and covering their weekly costs.



The single parent family model has \$102.48 left after meeting their basic living costs. Low wage growth and an increase in living costs, has pushed this household into a more financially precarious position.



While the home-owning age pensioner comes out \$153.08 ahead, the renting age pensioner has only \$52.93 after meeting their basic living costs.



The income of the working family model surpasses their basic living costs by \$210.66 per week. With their access to two sources of wages, they are in the best position of the model households.



## Financial Counselling Data

The 2018/19 data supplied by the Financial Counselling Network provides an insight into the real-life living cost pressures being faced by households who are experiencing financial hardship.

Housing is on average the most significant cost for all the households comprising 45.5% of their general expenditure.

Households in poverty are spending on average 72.3% of their income to cover their housing costs. These households spent an average of only \$3.77 on recreation, compared to the \$14.91 of all households.

Households in receipt of income support payments had education and health expenditure shares notably lower than the mean of all households, with a larger expenditure share being spent on food and communications.

## Weekly income and expenditure of model households

	Income	Expenditure	Net Position
Single Parent Family (Parenting Payment Single)	\$996.34 ▲	\$893.86 ▲	\$102.48 ▼
Working Family	\$1,461.00 ▲	\$1,250.34 ▲	\$210.66 ▲
Unemployed Single	\$310.38 ▲	\$326.81 ▲	-\$16.43 ▼
Age Pensioners (Renters)	\$757.64 ▲	\$704.72 ▲	\$52.92 ▲
Age Pensioners (Home Owners)	\$693.83 ▲	\$540.76 ▲	\$153.07 ▲

## Fortnightly mean income and expenditure of households who sought financial counselling

	Income	General Expenditure	Debt Payments	Surplus/Deficit	Debt to Income Ratio
Average	\$1,777.84	\$1,749.64	\$352.67	-\$324.47	19.8%
Households in Poverty	\$720.84	\$1,044.28	\$208.19	-\$531.63	28.9%
Income Support Recipient	\$1,273.97	\$1,473.26	\$166.28	-\$199.28	13.1%
Wage-Only	\$2,009.85	\$1,846.34	\$373.91	-\$207.39	18.5%

## Average % of general expenditure - financial counselling clients

