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| https://gallery.mailchimp.com/3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e/images/b786fb91-cd87-410f-901a-1cd62a7b7ed7.png |

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| Good afternoon all, There are a lot of articles this fortnight, but we hope you find them informative and relevant!   |

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| WACOSS Work |

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| CRR Program Survey- we want your feedback   |

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| WACOSS is asking stakeholders, colleagues and networks to review the CRR program. This is a great opportunity for you to feedback to WACOSS what is working well with the CRR program and what improvements can be made. You can access the survey [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=0c0889f929&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| WACOSS State Budget Submission provider conversations |

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| WACOSS will be holding our annual community sector conversations across the state to prepare for the State Budget Submission (SBS), you can find last years' [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=d807cb1076&e=87b90d6f59). If you would like to attend a SBS conversation, click [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=a623cf9845&e=87b90d6f59) to find out if there is one close to you. If you cant attend a conversation but want to participate, we will be releasing a survey on July 1st.   |

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| Sector News |

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| Hardship Utility Grants- New Guidelines  |

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| Key changes to strengthen the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme (HUGS) and ensure it continues to benefit West Australians most in need of support to access essential energy and water services come into effect today.Key policy changes include: * an expansion of third party assessment for HUGS applicants linking them with services to address circumstances that lead to hardship
* an additional grant incentivising shared responsibility for both customers and utility providers, with up to $50 available for some HUGS applicants where utility providers also waive an equivalent amount of debt
* strengthened focus on the shared responsibility principle while also ensuring that HUGS expenditure is targeted towards customers most in need.

Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=b655b439c7&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| Funding restraints result in a change in St Pat's opening hours |

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| Due to the constrained funding environment, St Pat's has had to make the difficult decision to change opening hours of the Community Support Centre. From 1 July 2019, the new hours for the support centre will be 7:30am-2:00pm Monday-Thursday, and 7:30am-9:30am Friday (breakfast, showers and bathroom facilities available, but no emergency relief appointments will be available).  For more information phone St Pat's on 08 9430 4159  |

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| Free office furniture Perth |

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| **Norton Rose Fulbright have some good quality second hand office furniture to donate** to NFPs. If you are interested in the furniture please get in touch with via nancy.zheng@nortonrosefulbright.com   |

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| Network Updates |

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| CRR Forum- 3rd July |

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| The 3rd July meeting will be hosted by **St Vincent de Paul at their Canning Vale centre** and will include a presentation by Executive Manager Andrew York on the range of Vinnie's services and a tour of the Vinnies call centre which also hosts the National Debt Hotline.This forum will also feature a presentation from the General Manager of [**My Care My Choice**](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=94ac21c97d&e=87b90d6f59)Feel free to just attend on the morning or let us know you are coming by emailing leela@wacoss.org.au.  |

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| National News |

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| Centrelink robo-debt system is 'extortion', says former tribunal member  |

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| The longest-serving member of Australia's government review tribunal has offered a withering assessment of the Department of Human Services' automated debt recovery program, describing it as a form of extortion. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=f3a3a90b3d&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| 'I didn't want to be homeless with a baby': young women share their stories of homelessness |

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| Increasing numbers of women lack a safe and secure place to call home. But most women who are homeless are “invisible”. You don’t see these vulnerable women sleeping on the streets – most are forced into “couch-surfing”, staying in crisis or temporary accommodation, or sleeping in their cars. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=2ad75bce8b&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| Automating inequality, the Australian way  |

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| Virginia Eubanks’ wonderful book Automating Inequality stimulated thinking about technologies used to ration Australia’s welfare services and payments. The book includes case studies about some of the rationing and assessment systems used in the US that have reduced services to the most needy. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=2db0aa4c17&e=87b90d6f59). |

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| No Labor review of Newstart in opposition  |

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| Australians should heap pressure on the federal government and not Labor if they want a review of how much welfare job-seekers receive, according to shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers. Labor had vowed to review the Newstart payment if it won the May 18 election - with the intention of lifting it - after long-standing calls from welfare groups. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=41a25d4b22&e=87b90d6f59). |

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| Australia’s social housing policy needs stronger leadership and an investment overhaul  |

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| Australia will need another 730,000 social housing dwellings in 20 years if it is to tackle homelessness and housing stress among low-income renters. These are the findings of a new report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), which shows social housing is in urgent need of direct public investment.  Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=8799fed8f1&e=87b90d6f59). |

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| Reserve Bank governor suggests Newstart increase would be 'good for the economy'   |

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| Australia’s peak social services body has seized on comments from the Reserve Bank governor after he said an increase to Newstart would be “good for the economy”. Speaking at an event in Adelaide, Philip Lowe said “very low” household income growth was the reason the economy had “softened”, which has prompted the RBA to reduce interest rates to a record low of 1.25%. For more, click [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=688dbc1063&e=87b90d6f59). |

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| Wealthy Australians “overcompensated” by tax plan: Australia Institute report  |

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| Wealthy Australians are being “overcompensated” for the scourge of bracket creep, according to a new analysis that makes the case for delaying income tax cuts for the rich. The Australia Institute on Monday released its analysis as the Labor Party keeps its options open on the “economically irresponsible” Stage 3 tax cuts in 2024.  [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=59a991b44f&e=87b90d6f59) for more. |

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| The 'precarious' lives of women over 55  |

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| An introduction service for flatmates, converting family homes into partly self-contained apartments and building community-funded homeless shelters are among new attempts to help older women find secure housing. Women over 55 are the fastest growing group of homeless people in Australia, though men and younger people are much more likely to be homeless, 2016 census data shows.  Here for [more](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=120b65360c&e=87b90d6f59). |

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| 'Repay debt for years': loan changes to hit 136,000 students  |

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| More than 136,000 young Australians are soon to join the ranks of 617,000 former students who are repaying their Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) – formerly known as HECS debt – as the income threshold for repaying the debt is slashed to just $45,881. [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=1395a0ad01&e=87b90d6f59) for more.  |

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| Turning local libraries, pools and playgroups into sites of surveillance – ParentsNext goes too far  |

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| Sydney Morning Herald reporter Jacqueline Maley evoked the spectre of the Orwellian surveillance state recently when discussing how library staff had been implicated in the ParentsNext program. [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=95e4afaf20&e=87b90d6f59) for more. |

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| Mortgage arrears rate at highest rate since GFC, says Reserve Bank  |

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| A lift in the number of Australians behind on their mortgages is a sign of a slowdown in the economy and the problems caused by slow wages growth, the Reserve Bank of Australia has admitted. [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=b7630378d9&e=87b90d6f59) for more. |

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| Women are the hidden victims of homelessness — but it isn't just a case of sleeping rough  |

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| For the first time in a long while Angela Rose feels excited about her future, and she attributes a big part of that feeling to having a home. The Adelaide resident, who was homeless for more than a year, is among the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness — older women.  [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=534d5bc7b3&e=87b90d6f59) for more. |

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| Issues with robo-debt flagged with the UN  |

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| In a submission to the UN, the Human Rights Law Centre has flagged concerns with Centrelink's use of automation for penalties, saying it creates more poverty. Centrelink's controversial robo-debt program is under international scrutiny for potential breaches of human rights. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=5aae4e35a7&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| Nations must protect spending on the vulnerable, says IMF chief  |

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| The International Monetary Fund is urging countries to protect spending on health, education and vulnerable groups amid growing concern among its members about excessive levels of inequality, its managing director has said. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=49dd73f564&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| Why are we still pretending 'trickle-down' economics work?  |

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| Next Wednesday, Donald Trump will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the arch-conservative economist Art Laffer. Sadly, Laffer’s career has been heavy on punditry, light in academic rigor, and absolutely destructive for the average American and the long-term health and sustainability of our economy. Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=745ab97dcb&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| Charities take fundraising into their own hands  |

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| A group of Australia’s top charities have joined forces to create an independent, not-for-profit fundraising organisation to provide a sustainable flow of funds to the four organisations.  Read more [here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=24293a4f22&e=87b90d6f59).  |

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| ACOSS warns against government’s ‘unprecedented’ tax cuts  |

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| The Morrison government’s plan to give people on $200,000 a tax cut of $11,000 a year will guarantee funding cuts to essential services and hurt society’s most vulnerable, the Australian Council of Social Service says. [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=707562e17c&e=87b90d6f59) for more.  |

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| SDG Index a ‘wake-up call’ for Australia  |

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| Australia is lagging well behind other OECD nations when it comes to sustainable development, according to new research that has prompted calls for all sectors to take stronger environmental action. [Here](https://dropin.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3fbefed8131b86e66f6592b5e&id=54ce46e04a&e=87b90d6f59) for more.  |

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