

TALKING POINTS- SOCIAL INCLUSION

What is social inclusion?

- The social inclusion agenda is core to how the government addresses disadvantage. A successful social inclusion agenda recognises that strong communities must be underpinned by a strong economic base and a clear connection between economic and social strategies is essential.
- Social inclusion is not only an issue of equity – it is also an economic necessity. It is imperative to the continued prosperity and growth of our nation that everyone who can participate economically has the resources and opportunities to do so, and that we invest in the capabilities of especially the most disadvantaged people to become fully included in our communities.
- The social inclusion approach supports people to have the opportunities, capabilities and resources to participate fully as active members of the community. Most people in Australia are doing well, however some are facing a complex range of problems. For example:
 - Australia has the fourth highest rate of children living in jobless families in the OECD.
 - Around 100,000 Australians are homeless, including families with children.
 - The outcomes for Indigenous Australians continue to be significantly worse than for other Australians across most indicators.
 - 5% of Australians experience a combination of disadvantages which impact on their ability to participate in the community. If not addressed, disadvantaged can be long-term, entrench in particular locations, and be transmitted over generations.
- The social inclusion approach goes beyond poverty. It acknowledges that low income is not the sole indicator of disadvantage, however it is a source of problems and exclusion, and strongly compounds other disadvantages that people face.
- Exclusion is complex and multi-faceted. Social inclusion works to better connect existing services, and trial innovative new solutions to address disadvantage. The Government's goals for social inclusion are that all Australians are able to learn, work, engage with their community, and have a voice in matters which affect them.

What has the government achieved?

- While 'social inclusion' may not be a common term in the Australian vernacular, as an agenda it is making positive impacts.