

Title of Resolution:

Increase and accelerate efforts aimed at reducing child poverty across Australia, in line with Australia's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of reducing child poverty

Wording of Resolution:

VIEW Clubs of Australia call on the Federal Government to increase and accelerate efforts aimed at reducing child poverty across Australia, in line with Australia's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of reducing child poverty by at least half by 2030. This should include a National Child Poverty Strategy with targets and measures to achieve them, developed in partnership with the States/Territories and the community.

Rationale:

The VIEW Clubs of Australia can use their community-based networks to advocate for greater action on child poverty in Australia, an incredibly serious social and economic challenge. They can help local community members, and local MPs, to better understand the extent of child poverty, and the urgent need to have a more significant and impactful public policy response by government. It ties directly to their work with The Smith Family on empowering disadvantaged children and young people through education.

Arguments for the resolution:

- There is an urgent need to tackle child poverty in Australia.
- Child poverty has become entrenched in Australia over the past thirty years, despite the country experiencing unparalleled economic prosperity during this same time.
- There are now over 1.1 million Australian children and young people in poverty. As the OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría stated in 2008, child poverty 'will permanently scar a generation, preventing it from ever reaching its full potential'.
- Poverty impacts on young people's health, education, employment prospects, well-being and social inclusion and increases the likelihood they will be reliant on welfare across their lives.
- Australia has committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which includes a commitment to reduce child poverty by at least half by 2030. As yet, there is no clear strategy for how this goal will be achieved. Australia needs a clear, comprehensive national strategy outlining how we will meet this commitment, including targeted policies, budget and timelines

Arguments against the resolution:

The argument against this resolution would be to hope in the course of delivering regular public services to the community, that child poverty is reduced.

This is the 'business as usual' approach currently taken by successive Federal Governments, and it has failed to make a significant impact in reducing child poverty in the past three decades.