



# Impact Report 2024

"This organisation is making a profound contribution to public policy in our country."

The Hon Clare O'Neil MP  
Minister for Housing  
and Homelessness



“In opposition,  
Per Capita was an  
incredibly important  
source of ideas and the  
testing of ideas for the  
Labor Party. And that  
is equally true  
in government.”

**Dr Daniel Mulino MP**  
**Chair of Standing**  
**Committee on Economics**



# Securing change

Our research and relentless advocacy over many years has secured many progressive policy changes this year across tax, gender equality, industry policy, education, housing, responsible technology and progressive economics.

## ✓ **Stage 3 tax cuts**

The government changed these to be fairer in January after our years of advocacy.

## ✓ **Super on parental leave**

Superannuation will now be paid on government-funded parental leave. We have been calling for this since 2017.

## ✓ **Future Made in Australia**

The government's proposed industry policy closely aligns with recommendations from our Centre for New Industry around decarbonising and diversifying Australia's industry.

## ✓ **Paid student placements**

Social work students will now be paid for their mandatory 1000 placement hours following our report and advocacy.

## ✓ **Housing in the budget**

As per our recommendation, Treasurer Jim Chalmers included a dedicated housing statement in the 2024-25 Federal Budget.

## ✓ **HECS-HELP loan indexation**

We have long argued the need for student loan reform. These indexation changes will provide relief to graduates.

## ✓ **HECS-HELP repayments**

We have also argued the need to raise the minimum repayment threshold for HECS-HELP loans, which the Albanese Government has now agreed to.

## ✓ **Responsible AI**

Our Centre of the Public Square recommended a requirement for public service AI initiatives to name a specific person accountable. This has subsequently been adopted by the federal government.

## ✓ **ACCC resourcing**

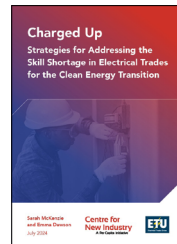
Our recommendation to increase resourcing for the ACCC to actively monitor pricing practices of supermarkets was adopted.

# Researching policy solutions

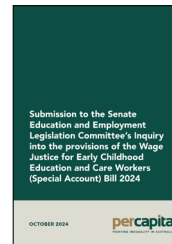
Our research this year has covered housing, Australia's tax and transfer system, education, responsible technology, climate change, workers rights, progressive economics, gender equality, representation in parliament and the foundational / care economy. Here is a selection of our publications from 2024.



What our government spends on housing and who benefits most



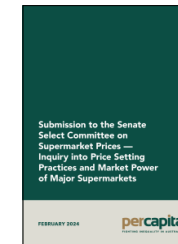
Addressing skills shortages in electrical trades for the clean energy transition



Wage justice for Early Childhood Education and Care Workers



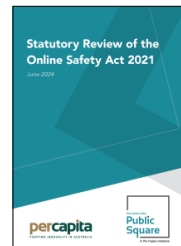
Ending unpaid placements in social work education



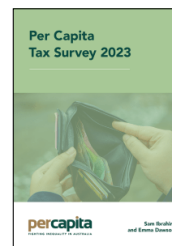
Supermarket price-setting practices and market power



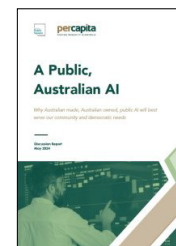
Representation in the 47th Australian Parliament



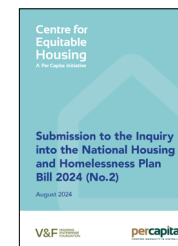
The obligations of online platforms as stewards of the modern public square



Our annual survey of Australians' views on our tax and transfer system



We must not rely solely on foreign or private companies for AI infrastructure



Our submission on the National Housing and Homelessness Plan





“Per Capita’s strength isn’t only in putting on events and putting out reports – it’s also in empowering others.”



**Andrew Leigh MP,  
Assistant Minister for  
Competition, Charities,  
Treasury and Employment**

# Influencing the conversation

Some of the events we've hosted in 2024 with MPs, authors, academics, and political experts.



The Hon. Clare O'Neil, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, delivered our third annual John Cain Memorial Oration



We hosted Audrey Tang, Taiwan's first Digital Minister, for a national tour and address at the National Press Club on the future of technology and democracy



Pollster and strategist Kos Samaras gave an address on changing voter demographics and the challenges for Labor



We hosted Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services, Stephen Jones, for the announcement of the government's Scams Prevention Framework



Julian Hill MP spoke on the Workforce Australia Employment Services Inquiry



Daniel Mulino MP, Chair of the House Economics Committee, gave an address on the Federal Budget



We heard from Dr Jennifer Raynor on the bad ideas blocking effective climate action



# Showcasing our research

Our research doesn't just sit on our website — we take it to Parliament, to partner organisations and to the public.

Members of the Per Capita team presented our research and advocated for our policy positions at many events this year, including the following:

- Meetings with MPs
- Numerous government inquiry hearings including the supermarket prices inquiry, AI inquiry and wage justice for Early Childhood Education and Care Workers inquiry
- Queen Victoria Women's Centre's International Women's Day event "Invest in Women: Makes Economic Sense"
- Greater South Eastern Melbourne Policy Forum
- Richmond ALP Branch Housing talk
- Zoe Daniel's Budget Breakfast
- Anika Legal's "Unlocking Housing" Forum
- Right to Housing - Social Sciences Week 2024 | RMIT University
- Raise Our Voice Australia Budget Webinar



# Raising our voices

We are vocal in the media on matters of policy, economics, inequality and justice to educate and influence the public. Here is a selection of our media appearances from 2024:

**Crikey.**

Aug 30, 2024

**Yes, we should nationalise Qantas – this privatisation experiment has been disastrous!**

Margaret McKenzie

Senior Economist, Margaret McKenzie [debated for the nationalisation of Qantas](#) in an op-ed for Crikey back in August.

**The Guardian**  
A decade of making a difference

Jan 10, 2024

The stage-three tax cuts are politics over policy – and no way to save our struggling economy

Emma Dawson

Emma Dawson published an op ed in the Guardian early in the year advocating for [the end to stage three tax cuts and the need for meaningful tax reform](#).

**THE AGE**  
A decade of making a difference

Sep 20, 2024

**By siding with the right the Greens are in a race to the bottom**

Emma Dawson

Emma Dawson published an op ed in The Age speaking on the [Greens' siding with the Coalition and One Nation](#) to delay the Help to Buy legislation back in September.

**Crikey.**

Jun 25, 2024

**News Corp, short-term AI deals ensure your planned obsolescence**

Jordan Guaio

Jordan Guaio published an op ed in Crikey looking at the partnerships between [media companies like News Corp and OpenAI](#), and the potential consequences of such a relationship.

**The Guardian**  
A decade of making a difference

Oct 8, 2024

Across the west, the right is rebranding itself as champions of the common folk. Will it work in Australia?

Peter Lewis

Peter Lewis, convener of the Centre of the Public Square, wrote regular, fortnightly op-eds for the Guardian Australia, including this piece on the [Liberal Party's rebranding](#).

**THE NEWDAILY**

Why Australia's tradie shortage is getting worse and threatens the housing, climate crises

Matthew Elmas

Emma spoke to finance reporter Matthew Elmas (The New Daily) about [Per Capita's "Charged Up" report](#).

“We live in exciting and changing times and Per Capita will change the nation with progressive data – they need our support big time.”

**Denis Moriarty, Group Managing Director, Our Community**

Australia needs a social democratic think tank to research, develop and advocate for solutions to wicked problems; solutions that will steer our nation towards a fairer, more prosperous future for all Australians, not only for the lucky few. This is Per Capita’s work.

With an election year on the horizon, this work is more important than ever. Daniel Mulino, Andrew Leigh, Clare O’Neil and others quoted throughout this Impact Report have all highlighted that Per Capita has real influence where it counts – with our government and policy makers. We have a real chance to influence the government’s policy platform going into next year’s federal election, but we need your help.

Our list of wins in 2024 shows that we punch above our weight, but we are only a small handful of people, often running on fumes. We don’t have the huge donor base or large endowment of some larger think tanks. Would you consider making a tax deductible donation this new year to help us continue making Australia fairer, more sustainable, more innovative and more equal?

*“Per Capita does some great work particularly on policy. [They’re] one of only a few organisations in this country that do really focus on the issues that matter to voters.”*

**Kos Samaras, RedBridge Group**



**DONATE NOW**

**percapita**  
FIGHTING INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA