percapita

FIGHTING INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

"We really need organisations like Per Capita to bring progressive people together, to generate new ideas to make our country better for everyone."

Senator Jess Walsh

End of Financial Year Impact Report 2025

Securing Policy Change

Per Capita works to build a new vision for Australia grounded in fairness, shared prosperity, and social justice. Over the past three years, many of the evidence-based ideas we've developed and advocated for have been taken up by the Federal Government. Here are some key reforms from the Albanese Government's first term that reflect the change we've worked to achieve.

- Invested more in **social housing** than any federal government in 30 years.
- Introduced world-leading **tax evasion laws** for multinational corporations.
- Criminalised **wage theft**.
- Fixed a broken Industrial Relations system to **get real wages growing** for the first time in a decade.
- Overhauled the **Stage Three Tax Cuts** to restore progressivity and provide support to working families, ensuring that everyone who pays income tax got a tax cut, not just the wealthy.
- Restored the **single parent payment** to those with children aged up to 14, lifting their social security payments by $176.90 per fortnight.
- Implemented paid **domestic violence leave**.
- Expanded **paid parental leave**, including more "use it or lose it" leave for dads.
- Funded long-overdue **pay rises** for skilled, essential workers in the Aged Care and Early Childhood Education sectors.
- Increased **child care** rebates, and introduced legislation to guarantee three days of subsidised **early childhood education** and care for all kids, whether or not their parents are in work.
- Introduced **payment** for Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery and Teaching degree students for their compulsory practical placement hours.
- Dedicated $3.2 billion to the **Future Made in Australia** plan.
- Introduced mandated **climate reporting** for businesses.
- Made changes to **HECS/HELP** indexation, giving many graduates and students debt relief.
- Cut existing **student debts** by 20%.
- Introduced protections for **gig economy workers**.
- Funded **free TAFE** for students in core trades and services.
- Reformed the **NDIS** to massively reduce corporate rorting by multinational companies.
- Announced a **Scams Prevention Framework** making banks and social media companies responsible for scams that have cost innocent people thousands of dollars.
- Increased the proportion of **renewable energy** in the national grid to over 40%, with the aim of reaching 82% by 2030.
- Investing half a billion dollars in **women's and reproductive health**.

Community Tax Summit

In February 2025, Per Capita led a team of community organisations to host the Community Tax Summit 2025, bringing together leading experts, community advocates, policy makers and the Australian people to kick off a big, national conversation about meaningful tax and transfer system reform.

There is broad agreement among economists, social security experts, business leaders and the community sector that Australia's tax and transfer system needs structural reform: to lift productivity, realise the benefits of a net zero economy, fund the essential social services and infrastructure upon which we all rely, and reduce inequality within and between generations.

Recordings of all speakers and panels are available on the Per Capita website and YouTube channel for free. Per Capita will be producing a paper to continue tax reform discussions, due to be released later in 2025.

Keynote speakers

Dr Ken Henry

Former Secretary to the Treasury and Chair of the Rudd Government's 2010 tax review

Prof Miranda Stewart

Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Dr Katherine Trebeck

Political Economist at The Next Economy

Panel Discussions

Inequality of wealth, income and opportunity	Housing: The great Australian divide	Social infrastructure, care and services
Broadening the tax base	Welfare and social assistance	2 lived experience panels
Climate and the regions	International taxation	How to achieve the change we need

Centre for Equitable Housing

In October 2024, Dr Kate Raynor was appointed the new Director of Per Capita's Centre for Equitable Housing (CEH). Since then, CEH has been extremely busy working on a variety of projects.

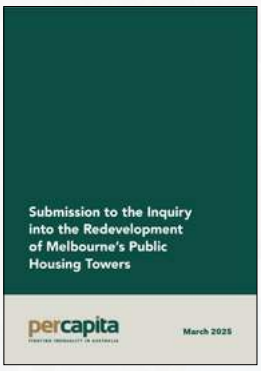
The centre is currently working with Australians Investing in Women to build a cross-sectoral roadmap and national commitment to gender-informed housing investment and delivery. We know from our Housing Monitor survey that women experience the housing system differently to men right across the spectrum, including renting, buying and homelessness, especially with children in tow. Family violence is a huge driver of housing insecurity for women. Our work is moving beyond identifying the problem, to highlighting solutions and building industry capacity to deliver them.

We have also been working with the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness to extend their framework for Permanent Supportive Housing. CEH is quantifying the scale of housing need for some of Australia's most vulnerable community members and advising on the cost to meet that need in a 5-year timeframe in WA and SA. We are also partnering with local councils to understand current and projected housing need and advise on housing strategy to address the growing housing crisis.

CEH is also the proud recipient of funding from the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation to investigate novel approaches to supporting low income or under-served households to access homeownership and is collaborating with the Wyatt Trust to advise on the distribution of philanthropic funds to address poverty in SA.

Across these projects, CEH is committed to sharing findings far and wide with CEH director Dr Kate Raynor presenting at the upcoming National Homelessness Conference in June, the International Life Course Conference in July and the Lady Musgrave Trust Forum in August. Kate has been featured on ABC news discussing housing issues in the lead up to the Federal election and on radio programs discussing women's homelessness.

Our submissions to government housing inquiries



The redevelopment of Melbourne's Public Housing Towers

The National Housing and Homelessness Plan

Build to Rent

"Policy development is not just for political parties, and I want to thank Per Capita for continuing the hard work of policy development today. It's really crucial."

The Hon. John Brumby AO,
Former Victorian Premier

Policy Hive

Per Capita's early career policy network

This year Per Capita launched Policy Hive, our early career policy network for policy professionals, students and anyone interested in learning more about how they can influence policy and politics to build an Australia based on fairness, shared prosperity and social justice.

What does Policy Hive do?

- **Networking events**
- **Training sessions**
- **Monthly email newsletters**
- **Webinars**
- **Online discussion forum**

How do I join?

Policy Hive is free to join - simply subscribe to the Policy Hive mailing list to stay informed of events and opportunities.

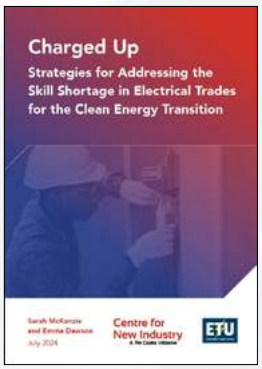
Subscribe to Policy Hive updates here

Researching Policy Solutions

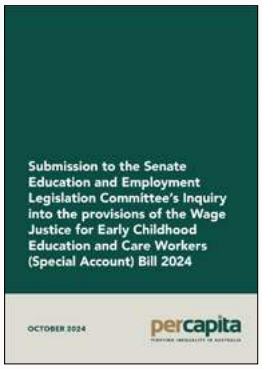
Our research over the last 12 months has covered housing, Australia's tax and transfer system, responsible technology, energy transition, workers rights, representation in parliament and the foundational / care economy. Here is a selection of our publications from the last 12 months.

The Lost Decade: How low wage growth stopped young Australians buying a home

Per Capita Tax Survey 2024

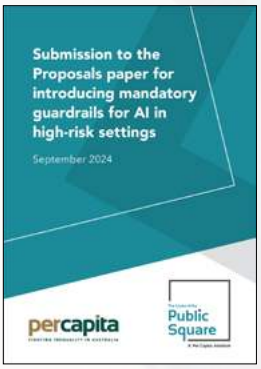


Charged Up: Addressing the Skill Shortage in Electrical Trades for the Clean Energy Transition



Submission to the Inquiry into Wage Justice for Early Childhood Education and Care Workers

The Way In: Representation in the 47th Australian Parliament



Submission to the proposal for mandatory guardrails for AI in high-risk settings

See all our publications here

Influencing the conversation

Here is a selection of the events we've hosted and spoken at over the last 12 months with MPs, authors, academics, and political experts.

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

We hosted *Winning for Women*, with Katy Gallagher, Kate Thwaites, Ged Kearney, Jess Walsh, Lisa Darmanin, Jo Briskey and Sarah Witty

John Brumby and Stuart Kells spoke on their book *A Better Australia: Politics, Public Policy and How to Achieve Lasting Reform.*

Minister for Skills and Training Hon. Andrew Giles MP launched our *Charged Up* report with the ETU

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

Senator Jess Walsh spoke at our April John Cain Lunch on Gippsland's community-led new energy transformation

Making news

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:

Emma Dawson, was interviewed about our research on the NDIS in the ABC's The Money Podcast (December 2024)

Our 2024 Tax Survey was covered in detail by The Age in a special feature piece (January 2025)

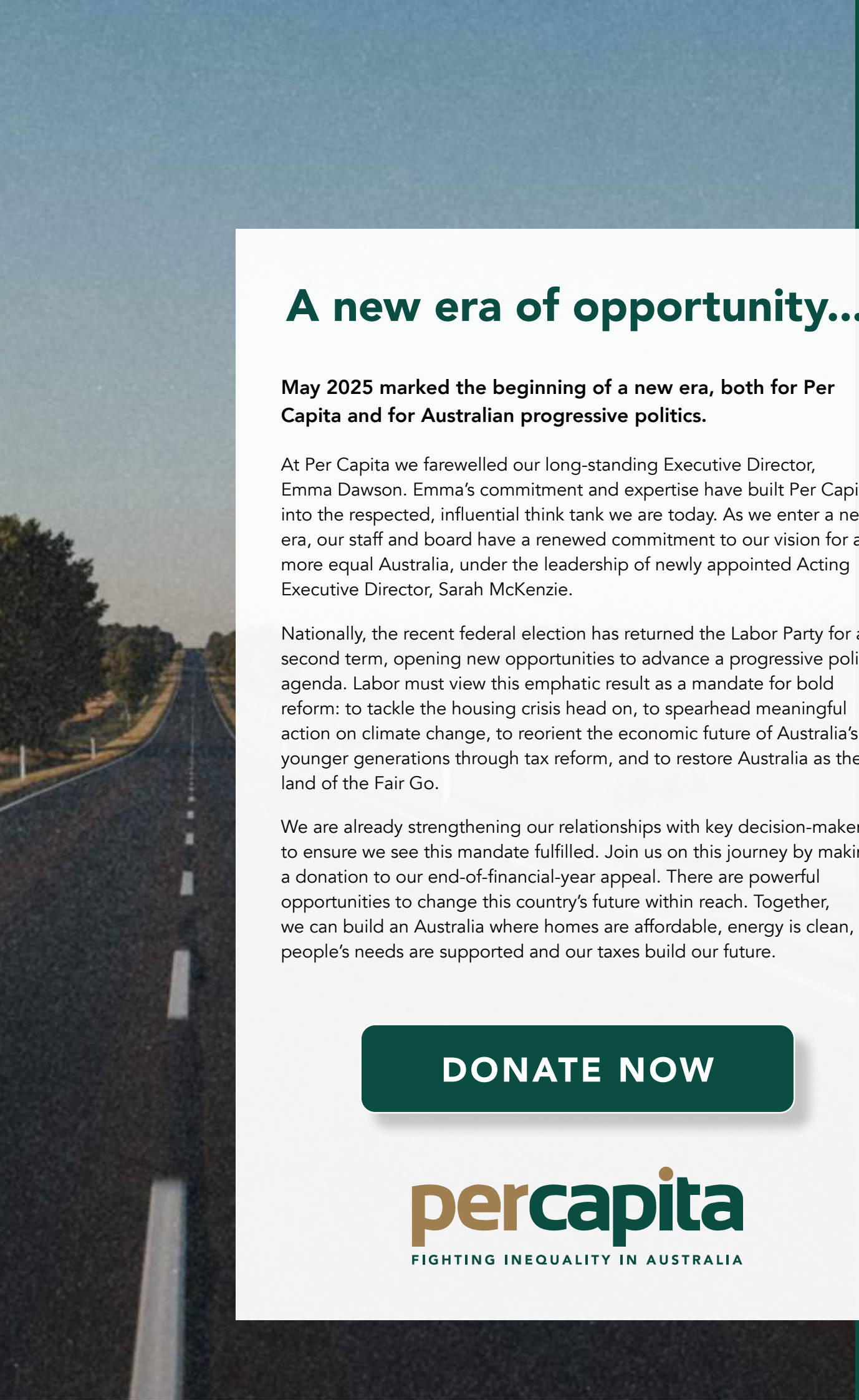
Our Community Tax Summit was reported in the Australian Financial Review and the Sydney Morning Herald (February 2025)

Director of Per Capita's Centre for Equitable Housing, Dr Kate Raynor, was quoted by The Age about "Help to Buy" plans (March 2025)

Our report on the effect of wages on home ownership, *The Lost Decade*, was covered by Nine News (April 2025)

"Organisations like Per Capita are so critical to the broad policy debate. They are able to say the things that need to be said in ways that members of Parliament can't necessarily say, and really push the debate forward."

The Hon. Jenny Macklin AC
Former Deputy Leader of the Federal Labor Party



A new era of opportunity...

May 2025 marked the beginning of a new era, both for Per Capita and for Australian progressive politics.

At Per Capita we farewelled our long-standing Executive Director, Emma Dawson. Emma's commitment and expertise have built Per Capita into the respected, influential think tank we are today. As we enter a new era, our staff and board have a renewed commitment to our vision for a more equal Australia, under the leadership of newly appointed Acting Executive Director, Sarah McKenzie.

Nationally, the recent federal election has returned the Labor Party for a second term, opening new opportunities to advance a progressive policy agenda. Labor must view this emphatic result as a mandate for bold reform: to tackle the housing crisis head on, to spearhead meaningful action on climate change, to reorient the economic future of Australia's younger generations through tax reform, and to restore Australia as the land of the Fair Go.

We are already strengthening our relationships with key decision-makers to ensure we see this mandate fulfilled. Join us on this journey by making a donation to our end-of-financial-year appeal. There are powerful opportunities to change this country's future within reach. Together, we can build an Australia where homes are affordable, energy is clean, people's needs are supported and our taxes build our future.

DONATE NOW

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