

Treating Families Fairly

Statement of Principles

Everyone has the right to a life free from poverty.

However, not all families in Australia can afford stable and safe accommodation, regular meals, adequate healthcare, utilities including water, energy, and telecommunications, transport, or the costs of raising children.

We know that the causes of poverty are structural, and not the result of individual failure.

Children and families can experience unexpected challenges and hardship at any time in their lives. Policies that stigmatise and demean only add to hardship.

Treating Families Fairly is a group of organisations and academics that have come together to advocate for changes to government policies and attitudes which increase hardship for children, young people and families.



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The Treating Families Fairly network calls on federal, state and local governments to develop solutions based on the following principles:

- Everyone has the right to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect, regardless of background, circumstances or income status.
- Children must be at the heart of all decision making; they have the right to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and connected to family, community and culture.
- Parents and carers are fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals and society and must be enabled to fulfil this role.
- Everyone deserves to be meaningfully consulted about the issues that affect them, to make decisions about their own lives, and to participate in developing solutions.
- People who receive income support must have the same respect and human rights afforded to all citizens (including economic, social, civil and political rights) and the same level of legal, privacy and consumer protections.
- Families come in all shapes and sizes and this diversity must be recognised, valued and reflected in the solutions that address hardship.
- Solutions must be positive, flexible and tailored, build on an individual's existing capabilities, support their aspirations and be part of a long-term vision.

Treating Families Fairly calls on governments to develop principles-driven and evidence-informed solutions to end poverty in Australia.