The 'living wage' should be updated to reflect a human being's ability to exist.

NO individual should be paid less than a REAL living wage - they need to be able to afford accommodation, food and clothing and costs of prescriptions and general health expenses.

I have worked in the counselling and welfare area for many years and the problems facing individuals who are unable to provide for themselves, has increased to a distressing, critical and alarming level.

The often heard quote of "the lowest unemployment figures in Australia's history" is acutely misleading. Limited casual hours of work do not provide a living wage.

Real individual income/employment must reflect a human being's ability to adequately provide for themself and any family they may have.

Australia's greatest shame is that the income for single elderly pensioners is a meagre approx. $271 p. week. Well below a living wage!
The majority of those affected are single widowed or divorced women.
More suicides, homeless elderly, and low income earners sleeping "rough" is an appalling indictment on our society.

We cannot make the excuse that our Country can't afford to pay people a living wage - we have a duty to care well for each other.

Let's stop making excuses. Let's stop the political rhetoric. Let's deal with these problems. Invite all of Australia to come up with solutions to fund the basic care & personal welfare of its citizens.