

DAREBIN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION  
C/O HON.SECRETARY, MARION HARPER

Please find our submission into your Inquiry.

- 1 Our Association, representing City of Darebin ratepayers, wishes to express its growing concern at the whole issue of poverty, the growing disparity between the poor and the wealthy.
2. The expectation that those without work are to blame for their situation when the community is well aware that the number of unemployed widely outpaces the number of employment positions available.
3. The expectations imposed on those with incomes well below the poverty line that failure to feed their families, pay exorbitant rents, meet school needs and eat adequately is their own fault.
4. The stigma deliberately advanced by politicians and sections of the media that the unemployed are not 'trying hard enough' to obtain work.
5. The failure of the system that has been deliberately developed which can in no way achieve 'social, economic and cultural outcomes to meet the needs and aspirations of unemployed workers'.
6. The failure of governments to appreciate that unemployment is not life choice but is the result of abortive policies deliberately implemented by those governments which results in blaming the victims rather than the perpetrators. Those who profit from policies which destroy job opportunities and blame the victims. The vast majority of those currently unemployed desperately want to work, to suggest otherwise can only be seen as a deliberate attempt to blame the victims for circumstances beyond their control.
7. That if there is a genuine will to finding 'alternative approaches to addressing joblessness' then it must include discussion with unions, the unemployed, the NGO's left to pick up the pieces of poor policy.
8. Any system that tolerates punishing the victims of unemployment can only be deemed to have failed.
9. There must be a public recognition that unemployment results from unacceptable, deliberately developed strategies, endorsed by governments which maximizes profit at the expense of the working people of Australia.
10. Our Association therefore, demands that the recognition of the above cannot continue to be tolerated at a time when profits have never been higher, the gap between the rich and poor so large and while companies pay little or no taxation from profits made higher by longer hours, lower pay and poorer conditions for the existing workforce.