

Endnotes

(1) Two observations are relevant here:

- Critics of the HPL might suggest that the increase in the incidence and rate of poverty depicted here could be attributed partly to the upgrading methods used to calculate HPL estimates. It is claimed that, as a result, the line can creep up over time relative to earnings. However, while this criticism is acknowledged, the relativity between the HPL and general standards of living is maintained. Further, even as it rises relative to earnings, the HPL still remains an austere standard. For example, in the tables used here, the annualised poverty lines, including housing costs, for the reference family of two adults and two dependent children where only the head of the family is working, were:

1995-96	\$410.40 per week
1989-90	\$343.20 per week
1985-86	\$242.50 per week
1981-82	\$172.20 per week

- It is acknowledged that there are several dimensions of regional variation across Australia in terms of people's achievable living standards, of which variation in household disposable income per capita by State is only one. It is reasonable to make this point as a qualification to poverty estimates although, from past experience in Queensland, any difference in poverty rates has been marginal. However, the Henderson methodology used by the SPRC is firmly based on the use of an Australia-wide figure for average income.

(2) The data sources used in the SPRC tables are:

- 1981-82 ABS Income and Housing Survey
- 1986 ABS Income Distribution Survey
- 1990 ABS Survey of Income and Housing Costs and Amenities
- 1995-96 ABS Survey of Income and Housing Costs

(Annual income measures are based on tax years. In 1995-96 the data are based on annual incomes in the 1994-95 tax year.)

Notes re Tables

- (a) The self-employed are excluded because of difficulties reaching accurate assessments of their incomes.
- (b) People aged under 21 and recorded as separate income units but dwelling with their family are excluded.
- (c) Since 1994-95 ABS surveys of incomes and housing costs have been subject to change, involving changes in definitions. This applies in particular to full-time students who used to be included in their family income units up to the age of 20 and now are included up to the age of 24. This has not been adjusted here but it is unlikely to make an enormous difference in the aggregate numbers.

(3) A full account of how the SEIFA are derived is provided in the ABS Catalogue 2039.0 – *Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas* (October 1998).

(4) In Table 6 (S) means 'shire' and (C) means 'city'.

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Appendix

A. Weekly Pension and Allowance Rates, Quarter Ending June 1998

Payment	Category	\$ amount
Age Pension	Single	177.30
	Couple (combined)	295.80
Parenting Payment	(sole parent)	177.30
Disability Support Pension (includes Youth Disability Supplement)	Single under 18, independent	157.55
	Single 18-20, independent	170.30
	Single 21 & over, independent	177.30
Youth Training Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Job Search Allowance & Partner Allowance	Single under 18 – at home	up to 72.70
	– Independent or away from home	120.00
	Single 18-20 – at home	up to 87.40
	– Away from home	132.75
	Single 21 & over	160.75
	Single 18 & over with children Couple, both over 21 (combined)	173.90 290.10
Family Payment	One child under 13 years	up to 48.20
	Two children under 13 years	96.40
	Three children under 13 years	144.60
	Four children under 13 years	196.65
	Five children under 13 years	248.70
	Additional children add	52.05
	Per child aged 13-15 years	62.45
	Secondary students, 16-18 years	30.00
Family Tax Payment	Per child	3.85
	Per family with one or more children under 5 years	9.62
Guardian Allowance	Paid to sole parents	18.35
Rent Assistance	Single, no children	up to 37.40
	Single, no children, sharing	up to 24.90
	Couple, no children	up to 35.30
	Single or couple	
	- 1 or 2 children	up to 43.70
- 3 or more children	up to 49.40	
Pharmaceutical Allowance	Paid to pensioners only (single or couple combined)	2.70

Source: Daddow, N (1999). 'Poverty Watch' in *National Outlook*, April

B. The Poverty Line, Pensions and Allowances, Quarter Ending June 1998

Head in the Labour Force ⁽¹⁾

Aust \$ per week	Centrelink Payments	Poverty Line	Difference
16-17 years single	120.00	247.27	-127.27
18,19,20 years single	132.75	247.27	-114.52
Over 21 years single	160.75	247.27	-86.52
Couple (over 21)	290.10	330.78	-40.68
Couple with 1 child	342.15	397.62	-55.47
Couple with 2 children	394.20	464.45	-70.25
Couple with 3 children	446.25	531.29	-85.04
Couple with 4 children	502.15	598.12	-95.97
Single parent with 1 child	247.70	317.45	-69.75
Single parent with 2 children	299.75	384.24	-84.49
Single parent with 3 children	351.80	451.08	-99.28
Single parent with 4 children	404.30	517.91	-113.61

Head not in the Labour Force

Aust \$ per week	Centrelink Payments	Poverty Line	Difference
Over 21 years single	180.00	200.50	-20.50
Couple (over 21)	298.50	284.01	14.49
Couple with 1 child	350.55	350.85	-00.30
Couple with 2 children	402.60	417.68	-15.08
Couple with 3 children	454.65	484.52	-29.87
Couple with 4 children	510.55	551.35	-40.80
Single parent with 1 child	250.40	270.64	-20.24
Single parent with 2 children	302.45	337.47	-35.02
Single parent with 3 children	354.50	404.31	-49.81
Single parent with 4 children	410.40	471.14	-60.74

⁽¹⁾ 'in the labour force' refers to people who are either unemployed and seeking work or in paid employment

Source: Daddow, N (1999). 'Poverty Watch' in *National Outlook*, April