



2026-27 Federal Budget: Single Mother Families Australia Asks

Single Mother Families Australia, formerly the National Council for Single Mothers and their Children, has been an influential advocate on national issues affecting single mothers since 1973. Our work is driven by our deep experience of listening to, and developing solutions with, single mothers. See below for a summary of our recommendations for the 2026-7 Federal Budget to improve safety and economic inclusion and to combat deep and persistent disadvantage for single mother families.

Government policies need to understand and address the long tail of domestic violence.

“Fleeing DV can leave you financially crippled, and systems can make it worse. It takes over a decade to build back up from nothing.”

1. Provide a Safety Supplement of \$23,000 payable in instalments over 12 months to all women eligible for income support who have experienced family and domestic violence.
2. Separate child support from Family Tax Benefit A, removing the ability for perpetrators to weaponise it and create debts for women. This separation would also increase income for the most impoverished families in Australia. Remove opportunities for former partners to avoid child support responsibilities.

Address ongoing and unrelenting financial insecurity for single parent families.

“The stress is in every direction. Even once having ended the relationship. I’m not at threat of violence but am constantly behind financially; trying to meet all my children’s needs alone; and I also need to keep myself going every day.”

3. The Parenting Payment Single should be available to all single parents until their youngest child turns 16 or continues until the youngest child completes high school.
4. Parenting Payment Single should be raised to match the single age pension rate.
5. Reforming child support detailed above will reduce financial insecurity for women and children.
6. Family payments should be increased and reviewed. Here is a brief on this
7. Commonwealth Rent Assistance and social housing needs to be increased to reduce homelessness and poor health outcomes for families with children.

Allow women to keep more of what they earn.

8. Align Parenting Payment Single income thresholds and withdrawal rates with the age pension.
9. Extend the Work Bonus provision to Parenting Payment Single recipients.

Support women to participate in voluntary and high quality study, training and job search and abolish Mutual Obligations.

10. Extend eligibility and access to the voluntary Parent Pathway (which replaced the failed ParentsNext) to single parents caring for children *older than six* and offer services both in person and online.
11. Extend the [Commonwealth Prac Payment](#) for mandatory placements to all Certificate 3 or 4 qualifications including in Early Years Education and other care related qualifications.
12. Abolish Mutual Obligations which act as a barrier to safety, secure employment and caring responsibilities.

See also: [SMFA Single Mother Profile](#), 06/05/26 and our full [Pre Budget Submission](#), 30/1/26.

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