

The Next Step: Universal Jobs Guarantee

A universal jobs guarantee is a policy to provide everyone who wants one with a secure, useful, dignified, job that pays a living wage. It's an old idea that's having a serious comeback. For example, the Labor Party's draft election platform contains a full employment target which in theory commits them to doing whatever it takes to make sure there's basically zero involuntary unemployment. But so far, they haven't adopted any policies to achieve that objective.

A universal jobs guarantee can end unemployment in Australia. It can also help raise wages and conditions for millions of workers in the private sector. Put simply, it's an answer to many of the questions voters are asking of our political leaders.

But right now, most people have never heard of a jobs guarantee – even in Canberra. So we need to use all of our movement's people-power to put a genuine grassroots demand for a universal jobs guarantee at the centre of the political agenda.

Long term objectives:

- Thousands of people in strategic electorates are vocally demanding a universal jobs guarantee in a way MPs and candidates simply can't ignore.
- At least one major party adopts a policy of having a trial of a universal jobs guarantee if elected in the 2019 election.

Strategic overview:

A universal jobs guarantee solves real struggles people face in their day-to-day lives. So we connect on those struggles by having thousands of meaningful person-to-person conversations across the country. As we connect, we identify those that did this to us — the corporations and the politicians they control — and introduce a jobs guarantee as part of the solution.

We do this in the electorates politicians can't afford to ignore. And in doing so, we build a politically powerful movement of citizens who are *ahead* of politics, and calling for real solutions to the problems we face. We channel this movement towards community meetings in strategic electorates, where politicians can see this movement for themselves.

Meanwhile, we reach out to broader civil society, including unions, think-tanks, grassroots groups, online and in the media. We build awareness and tap into existing networks. We build the movement and build our power. The conversation spreads. Wherever candidates go, they hear about a jobs guarantee. Journalists ask about it at press conferences. Unions and think tanks are releasing papers. The ALP have got a decision to make at their pre-election conference in December, and candidates from across the political spectrum are endorsing it as a good idea.