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MEDIA RELEASE

JOE HOCKEY'S BUDGET CREDIBILITY DESTROYED

Joe Hockey's budget credibility has been dealt a major blow by analysis from the Melbourne Institute using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey.

The analysis directly contradicts Joe Hockey's claims that Australia's welfare spending is out of control, and completely destroys the entire basis of Joe Hockey and Tony Abbott's budget.

Joe Hockey's 'welfare crisis' has been exposed as a complete fabrication, and the whole basis for his horror budget has been exposed as a lie.

We already know that Australia has one of the most targeted welfare systems across the OECD. Welfare expenditure in Australia accounted for just 8.6 per cent of GDP in 2013, compared to the OECD average of 13 per cent.

Now we know that Australians are also dramatically reducing their dependence on welfare. In 2001, 23 per cent of working age people in Australia received a welfare payment each week. In 2011, that had dropped to 18.5 per cent.

The report also indicates that there has been a significant reduction in the percentage of working age households where more than 90 per cent of their income came from welfare. In 2001, 7.1 per cent of households received more than 90 per cent of their income from welfare. In 2011 it was just 4.8 per cent.

There has also been a drop in the number of retirees who rely on benefits as their main source of income, dropping from 65.8 per cent to 63.5 per cent over the decade.

Joe Hockey has been running a campaign against people receiving payments and pensions as cover for his cruel budget cuts on low and middle income Australians.

Now that this has been exposed as a lie, his credibility lies in tatters.

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