Today austerity seems to be the only answer given to remedy the economic crisis in Australia, and yet people are getting poorer and poorer. Automated manufacturing and wealth accumulation are changing our approach to work and more and more is produced with fewer and fewer people. Unemployment has skyrocketed and paid work is no longer a right for everyone. The good news is, never in history has human society produced so much wealth, but while this worth is produced by the work of all past and present, this wealth is unevenly distributed amongst citizens.

We propose an alternative; it's called Unconditional Basic Income. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "...Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

Unconditional Basic Income should be: universal, individual, unconditional, and high enough to ensure a dignified existence and participation in society. This new fundamental right for Australians not only would eradicate misery, but it is also a way to develop non-market orientated work, such as artists, parents, and volunteers. But it’s also an economic measure; Unconditional Basic Income for all means supporting local business. This would therefore allow us to fully exercise our citizenship.

The Unconditional Basic Income can be financed by implementing more financial and high income taxation, consumption tax on luxury goods and polluting products, and mainly self-financing by simplification of a very long list of current social transfers and associated public services which have become obsolete. What we propose would be much simpler, equal and transparent. Everyone gets an Unconditional Basic Income. It is up to the citizen to work if they want an income on top of their Unconditional Basic Income payments. We as Australians citizens have signed and sent you this petition and ask that you examine our manifesto.

Why is this important?

Overall, the nature of the Unconditional Basic Income support - lifelong financial security and free of means test - will enable people to plan their own careers with greater certainty, with movements in and out of the workforce as required or desired to develop various skills and aptitudes. The provision of unconditional income support will provide the nation with an income support system which is free from political manipulation. It will remove income support from welfare policy considerations.

Under current systems, when someone becomes employed they lose most of their welfare payments. This means they can go from not working at all to working a full week, but not earn much more than they did previously, which acts as a disincentive to work. Under Unconditional Basic Income, when people become employed they would retain the same basic income payment, with their salary added

to it, so this disincentive no longer exists. Remember this will not replace your wages, you will be able to earn your normal working pay on top of the basic income. It is there simply as a safety net to ensure your basic human rights are fulfilled.

Second, the Unconditional Basic Income support will help people adapt to the changing industrial structure and employment opportunities by assisting them to plan and develop their vocational training and career structure. Remember this won't just help the young, what about middle aged families with a mortgage and kids to feed and clothe?

On the current system if lose your job and you own a flash car or property, you are expected to sell those assets first, wait 12 months and then you can claim the dole. With my proposal of a Unconditional Basic Income for all, the anxiety and stress for these kinds of families would no longer exist as they will still have a means to survive and will not be forced to pack up their lives and move somewhere due to their budgets.

Third, Unconditional Basic Income will provide people with a better opportunity to pursue training in cultural, recreation, and sporting activities in which they have special skills and aptitudes.

Fourth, the financial support for people with special skills and aptitudes can have special benefits for rural towns and regional areas at present facing dwindling communities and a lack of career opportunities.

The greatest benefit to society as a whole will be the influence it has towards a more equal and egalitarian society.

For more information as well as sources please visit our webpage at https://[www.communityrun.org/petitions/unconditional-basic-income](http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/unconditional-basic-income)