MEDIA STATEMENT
22 May 2024

Curtin recognises big picture thinking needed to solve cost of living crisis

Tax reform and additional social and affordable housing have been identified by Curtin voters as the priority issues for government to address in tackling rising cost of living.

A recent survey of constituents conducted by Kate Chaney MP, Federal Independent Member for Curtin, found all respondents were aware of the impact cost of living increases were having on the community. A majority of participants said housing costs concerned them the most, especially renting.

"When we asked respondents what they thought was the best thing that government could do to rein in cost of living, more than a third wanted to see tax reform to make it easier to buy a home than an investment property, closely followed by more social and affordable housing," said Ms Chaney.

"It's sent a clear message to me that housing is the biggest concern for the electorate when it comes to cost of living.

"This is consistent with what I've been hearing when I've been doorknocking in Curtin. I have spoken to young people who can't afford to move out of home, and I've heard from parents who have had adult kids move back."

To help people navigate some cost of living challenges, Ms Chaney is hosting cost of living seminars with the Financial Wellbeing Collective, a local collaboration of not-for-profit community services, community legal centres and local government supporting people with their financial wellbeing. The next is on 13 June for small business owners.

At the first event this week, the Financial Wellbeing Collective General Manager Helena Jakupovic encouraged everyone to go home and conduct their own financial health check.

"We've just seen the highest annual rise reported in the Consumer Price Index since the introduction of the GST in 2000. We've all noticed the increase in costs in different parts of our lives. Financial stress can happen to anyone, it crosses suburbs and electorates. It doesn't have a set postcode," said Ms Jakupovic.

"Everyone should take a regular financial health check, just as they do for their physical health. Start by understanding your current financial position, track and analyse your expenditure – including those hidden subscriptions. Identify your money habits and focus on behavioural change, then make a plan with set goals.

"Most importantly, if you are struggling to do this by yourself or as a couple, seek help. Financial counsellors provide a free, independent confidential service. They can advocate on your behalf with money lenders or other businesses that you may owe money to."

For more information or to book an appointment, visit thefwc.org.au or call 1800 932 050.
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