

Indigenous
MAKE ^ POVERTY HISTORY.

REMOVE INEQUALITIES OF POVERTY

MIPH Prayer Sheet 1

Imagine yourself living in a community where on average 17 people live in each house, in sweltering conditions without adequate health care (though chronic diseases are rife) and where children beg and steal for food.

Where on the earth are you?

Answer: right here in Australia, in Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory...

'I know you think you should make a trip to Calcutta, but I strongly advise you to save your airfare and spend it on the poor in your own country. Its easy to love people far away. Its not always easy to love those who live right next to us.'

Mother Teresa

Almost all remote Indigenous communities lack basic services that are available to other Australians. Many such communities look more like Third-World refugee camps than part of one of the richest countries in the world. They lack basic facilities taken for granted elsewhere in places of similar size elsewhere.

Meanwhile, in rural and urban Australia alike, Indigenous Australians fail to get a fair share of the wealth of their own land.



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Food for thought, prayer and action:

- Approximately 45% of all Indigenous people are in Australia's lowest income group.
- Only 16% of Indigenous people are in the highest two income groups in Australia.
- Indigenous households in the lowest income group are most likely to be one parent families with dependent children (37%).
- Indigenous Australians earn 62 % of the income of non-Indigenous people.
- The median weekly gross individual income for Indigenous peoples is \$278 or 59% of the medium income of non-Indigenous people (\$473).
- Indigenous people tend to be employed through CDEP or in more menial jobs.
- Within occupational categories Indigenous people earn less. For example, Indigenous managers earn 82 % of their non-Indigenous counterparts.



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“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed', but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
 (James 2:15-17)

ACTIVITY

Reflect on where you live and who lives with you:

- What kind of facilities are there in your community (e.g. schools, health centre, bank, shops)?
- How many people live in your house?
- How many adults have jobs where you live?
- What jobs do they do?
- How many children go to school from your community?
- What do they do when they leave school?
- Can people afford to eat out or go on holiday?

BIBLE REFLECTION

Isaiah ch.58 vv.6-12

A fair go for all God's children is a constant theme of the biblical prophets, who emphasise again and again that a thriving community depends on justice being done and resources shared between the haves and have-nots. Only when the yoke of oppression is removed will healing spring up for all. Then the Lord will respond and 'the ancient ruins' will be rebuilt. This is the true guarantee of a secure society.

Prayer Petitions

Please Pray

- For better employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- For encouragement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait economic enterprises.

PRAYERS

Your people are weary, Tireless One
 your people are weary,
 and the road is long.
 Your people are hungry, Generous One.
 Your people are hungry,
 and the food is scarce.
 Your people lack hope, Never-Failing One
 your people lack hope,
 and they see no sign of light.
 Your people are battered, Making One, your
 people are battered, and they have no
 strength to rise.
 Give to the weary, homecoming.
 Give to the hungry, bread.
 Give to the hopeless, the light of your con-
 solation.
 Give to the battered, strength to rise up,
 and to all your people, justice and peace.
Amen.



Holy God of Holy Wisdom,
 in Jesus Christ
 You call us from our foolishness
 to be Your children,
 coming amongst us like a kookaburra,
 singing the song of a new day.
 Give us that same spirit of solidarity
 which was in Christ Jesus,
 that we may bear Your easy yoke,
 casting our burdens upon You
 and resting in Your Love.
 In the power of the Holy Spirit
 who leads us all into a new future.
Amen.

Acknowledgement: This prayer sheet was originally created by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Inkpin and Revd. Penny Jones.

