

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS (FGFP)
COALITION VICTORIA INCORPORATED



REPORT DESIGNED, UPDATED AND COMPILED BY LEW WHEELER AND CO-ORDINATED BY ANN DAVIES
 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED PHOTOGRAPHY BY GINO INNAZZO AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS VOICE
 GRAPHICS DESIGNED BY TAMARA BOUZO. FGFP GIVES MANY THANKS TO TAMARA AND GINO
 MANY HANDMADE PLACARDS MADE BY A FGFP WORKING-BEE HELD IN 2016
 FGFP THANKS THE MELBOURNE UNITARIAN PEACE MEMORIAL CHURCH AND DONNA SENSI FOR PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES FOR THIS REPORT
 FRONT COVER PHOTO BY RAWPIXEL ON UNSPLASH
 PHOTO THIS PAGE BY ANDREA FIREHOCK MEDIA UNIT AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING WORKERS' UNION
 FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS (FGFP) COALITION VICTORIA INCORPORATED REGISTRATION NO: A0061591N

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FAIR GO
A LIVING
INCOME FOR ALL

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been a damaging one for those reliant on Social Security as their main or only source of income, as Social Security yet again was subjected to attacks by the Coalition Government. This assault continued to harass and victimise people who were already living extremely frugal lives or living in poverty or in deepening poverty.

This financial stress can and does lead to people being 'sick with worry' constantly having to decide which basic essential to go without: starve and pay a bill, eat and face disconnection, leave the lights off and go to bed at sundown to keep warm, avoid seeing the doctor, dentist or other health worker, pay the rent not the light bill, and/or seek food from a food bank as more and more Australians are forced to do. If able, walk everywhere as there is very limited free public transport available for those who need it.

If all else fails go live on the streets.

Australia is a wealthy country and this situation remained unconscionable and scandalous. The facts were: close to 3 million people are unemployed or underemployed, those living in poverty were: one third of workers on low-incomes, 33% age pensioners, more than 50 per cent of unemployed people and child poverty was increasing. Some were paying more than 40% of their income in rent, and homelessness had increased 13.7 per cent since the 2011 Census with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples made up 25%, people born overseas 30%, teenagers and young people around 33% with single women over 60 the fastest growing group among the homeless.

Governments continued to turn a blind eye to increasing inequality and to taking steps to build a just tax system in Australia so everyone paid their fair share of tax so money would be available to tackle inequality.

Many of the largest multi-national corporations operating in Australia and some wealthy individuals are paid little or no tax whatsoever in 2016.

There is money to spend on caring for people; it just depends on what policy choices are made by Parliamentarians.

Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP) Coalition Victoria Incorporated campaigned hard throughout the year ending 30 June 2018 on these issues. For example, worked with the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church, Friends of Public Housing Victoria, Housing for the Aged Action Group on the need to protect and expand public housing to meet unmet demand; called for the establishment of actual job creation schemes which offered real jobs with continuing employment

and decent wages and conditions, continued to call for an increase in all income support payments, and for Newstart Allowance to be increased by at least \$100 per week as a matter of urgency, argued for new money for expanded free/low-cost mental health services, included 4 of 8 recommendations into our claims from the *Fix Pension Poverty* campaign, and continued to press for an independent review of the Retirement Income System in Australia.

FGFP was one of four founding members to successfully establish Hands Off Public Housing (HOPH) which held its first joint meeting in July 2017.

With HOPH, FGFP continued to:

- assert that safe, secure and affordable housing was a basic human right and governments continued to have a central role in the provision of affordable 'public housing' – that is, owned and managed by government - for people on fixed low-incomes or workers on low-income or for those disadvantaged is vital.
- demand the government put people before profits and stop the public housing land sell off to private developers – that is, the partial privatisation of public housing in Victoria.
- call out the government to stop hiding behind "commercial-in-confidence" to deny citizens access to detailed information about Stage 1 Public Housing Renewal Program
- demand there be no "commercial-in-confidence" clauses in contracts when taking public money.

At the same time Governments both federal and state continued to contract out more public welfare services to private sector companies or group of companies wriggling out of their accountability to the public.

Following a long campaign dating to early 2015 including lobbying government and provision of seven written submissions to the Victorian *Residential Tenancies Act Review*, FGFP reports that the *Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill* was expected to be introduced to Parliament within weeks of 30 June 2018.

This Bill seeks to make significant changes to the regulatory framework for residential tenancies in Victoria such as greater security of tenure and minimum health, safety and energy efficiency standards – locks, heating and insulation, and mould

and pest infestation classified as urgent repairs. This Bill is colloquially known as the "RentFair" Bill.

When passed into law, the Act will be a marvellous for the amendments outcome for all housing advocates involved in fighting for such amendments.

FGFP celebrated its 10th anniversary on Friday 10 October 2017 with more than one story told with 18 Life Achievement Awards and Certificates of Achievement presented. Read more about this gathering and those honoured throughout this report.

The year ahead with state and federal elections coming is extremely important. FGFP calls on all to inform ourselves by asking our local federal and state politicians about their policy positions and visions for the future.

For the most vulnerable Victorians and Australians the coming year remains shockingly severe. FGFP will work on these priorities:

- end income poverty
- stop the contracting out or sell-off of public 'welfare' services
- cost of living and improving concessions
- protect and expand public housing
- accessible and affordable home-based aged care.

Join FGFP to continue the campaigning struggles of 2018 and beyond.

The election of new office bearers for a two year term commenced from the 20 November 2017.

I give special thanks to Roger Wilson outgoing President for his commitment to FGFP values and excellent work over the past 4 years. Roger stood down according to FGFP protocols whereby officer positions are held for no more than two 2-year continuous terms.

Since 2007, Roger has worked tirelessly as one of four founding members of FGFP and remained a member of the Executive Committee – an outstanding contribution to the work of FGFP.

Thank you so much Roger also for your readiness to roll up your sleeves and fight for social and economic justice and for your willingness to share your broad knowledge and skills.

I acknowledge the hard work of our national community alliance members and look forward to another year of successful representation and grass roots campaign activities.

Particular thanks are given to the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) for their generous and continuing support.

Special thanks to all other supporters and to FGFP volunteers who have given so generously of their time, skills, funds and/or in-kind donations.

As President, I want you to know that without you FGFP would not exist. Thank you so very much for your dedication and activism.

John Speight
President
FGFP Victoria



John Speight – he in the hat – in deep conversation with John Catterina, 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival Celebration Day, Sunday 8 October, 2017.



John in the middle of FGFP volunteers collating information sheets and discussing issues with festival goers keen to learn more. 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival Celebration Day, Sunday 8 October 2017.

VICTORIAN STEERING COMMITTEE: 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

Executive Members

President & Chair

Roger Wilson - Maritime Union of Australia MUA, (Victorian Veterans) 1 July to Monday 20 November 2017 ending a continuous 4-year term according to FGFP protocols: officer positions are held for no more than two 2-year continuous terms

John Speight- AMWU (Retired Members Division), elected for a 2-year term at AGM Monday 20 November 2017

Vice-Presidents

1 July to Monday 20 November 2017 ending 4-year terms

Claude Antolli - Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church

Lew Wheeler – Co-ordinator Individual Section

20 November 2017, elected at AGM for 2-year terms

Ann Davies – member Individual Section

George Zangalis – Federation of Greek Elderly Citizens of Melbourne & Victoria

Secretary

Elaine Speight – member Individual Section, elected at 20 November 2017 AGM for a 2-year term resigned 6 June 2018 on health grounds

Public Officer

Ann Davies - member Individual Section

Treasurer

Graham Stoodley – member FGFP Individual Section, elected at 20 November 2017 AGM for a 2-year term

FGFP Victoria representative FGFP National Executive

Lew Wheeler – Vice-President 1 July to 31 October 2017 resigned due to other work commitments

Elaine Speight – member Individual Section, elected by Victorian Steering Committee 1 November 2017, resigned 6 June 2018 on health grounds

Lew Wheeler - Acting from 7 June 2018, co-ordinator Individual Section

Committee members & representative organisations

Claude Antolli - Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church from 21 November 2017

Shane Bell, AMWU Retired Members Division/ Individual Section from April 2018

Owen Bennett – Australian Unemployed Workers' Union

Alan Bloome, Maritime Union of Australia Victorian Veterans

Joseph A Caputo OAM JP– Chair Federated Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia & Deputy Chair FGFP National Executive

Frank Cherry, AMWU Retired Members Division

Alan "Ugly" Chung – The Pen

Keith Coffey – Rail, Bus, Tram Union (Retired members)

Vera Considine, member Individual Section from March 2018

David Cragg - Victorian Trades Hall Council

Howard King - W.O.W! - Willing Older Workers, leave of absence from February'18

Marilyn King - W.O.W! - Willing Older Workers, leave of absence from February'18

Sylvie Leber - Council of Single Mothers and their Children

Christopher Lancucki AM - Polish Community Council of Victoria

Paul McCourt – Friends of Public Housing, Victoria

Joe Montero – The Pen

Brian Oates - Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre from May 2018

Nikolaus Rittinghausen - Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria

Fiona Ross - Friends of Public Housing Victoria

Valentina Satvedi Leydon - Individual Section, Administrative Assistant to mid-May 2018

Elaine Speight - Individual Section VSC from 7 June 2018

Alan Warriner -Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association of Victoria

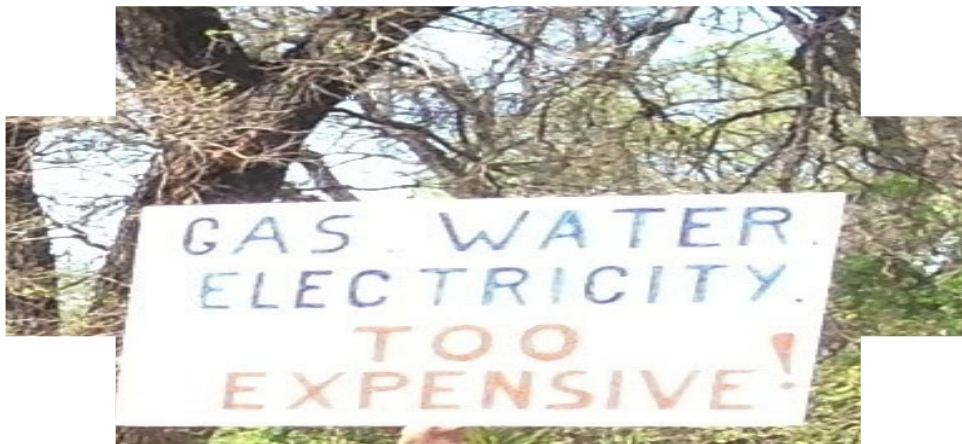
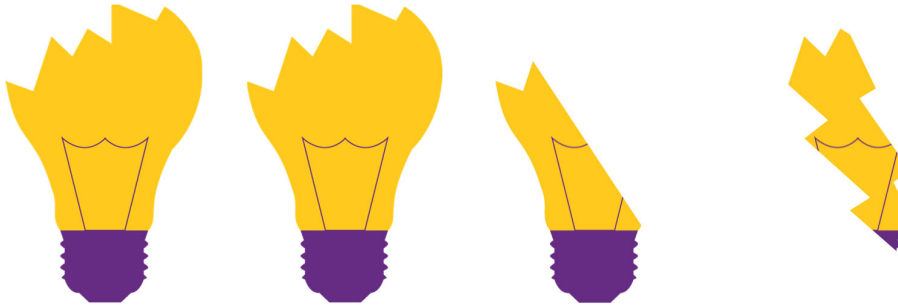
Pat Warriner -Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association of Victoria

VICTORIAN STEERING COMMITTEE: 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

Lew Wheeler - Individual Section, from 20 November to 6 June 2018

Roger Wilson - Maritime Union of Australia MUA, (Victorian Veterans) from 21 November 2017

We thank all committee members for bringing their passion and readiness to speak up and fight for social justice and for tirelessly working to help shape a compassionate society where everyone counts and gets a fair go for life.



25 May 2016 rally 'Bust the Budget or be Busted', outside the State Library of Victoria. A very large crowd heard from excellent speakers about the plight of the homeless, further restrictions and punitive compliance requirements for people unemployed, more cuts to a range of 'welfare' services

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Once again we have had a year come and go and FGFP continues to advocate and mobilise for all those who are marginalised and excluded from the wealth we have in Australia. That so many are excluded is a political choice, it is not about lack of resources, and it is about the lack of will of politicians and “leaders” to allocate our resources to give a fair and equitable distribution for all in our society.

A fair go for pensioners has never been more urgent and affordable than right now, with costs of living hitting the roof and the State and Federal economies with the clear capacity to redistribute wealth.

Many women, men and children in our rich country do not have access to safe, secure, affordable accommodation, health care, educational opportunities or secure, ongoing employment. Many are discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, religion and other arbitrary divisions.

Privatisation

A key government policy reinforcing disadvantage is privatisation of essential services which has become all pervading. Studies and evidence clearly show privatisation is more costly and less efficient than government ownership and management of resources and services. That is, ownership by us as citizens. The neo liberal narrative of successive governments ignores these facts, continuing to forge ahead with false ideology, further entrenching inequality and increasing the gap between the “haves” and the “have nots.”

FGFP is clear this must change and the ongoing dedication and commitment of our affiliates and individual members' means we will continue to keep working towards achieving the changes needed to bring about a fairer more equitable way of life for all. We thank the VSC for its constant and unwavering passion and activism to bring this vision for change to a reality.

We have done and will continue to do this by sustained planning and action.

Victorian Steering Committee (VSC) Working Groups

Three VSC Working Groups highlight the research, advocacy and policy work undertaken by FGFP challenging federal and Victorian State Governments' policy and/or program/services directions. All members of the working groups below are thanked for their energy, commitment and hard won outcomes.

Anti-Poverty Campaign Working Group

Works began on developing FGFP vision of the future in which everyone gets a fair go for life

and are treated with dignity and respect. Governments will work for all not just the few. Privatisation is central to this analysis and a range of recommendations are to be made on how we can get to a caring and just society. A demonstration was held outside the Premier's city office at Treasury Place 20 April 2017 on cost of living pressures driving more Victorians into energy poverty and some into deepening poverty.

250 copies of 'Living on Fresh Air' FGFP Anti-Poverty Recommendations Statement were distributed during a meet and greet prior to the demonstration. 4 out of 5 people willingly took the Statement and expressed their concern about too little being done to help those struggling to survive.

Members of 2017-18 Anti-Poverty Campaign Working Group were Lew Wheeler (coordinator), Ann Davies and Nikolaus Rittinghausen.

Concession Working Group

This ongoing working group continued its focus on lobbying for meaningful concessions on transport and cost of utilities electricity, gas and water

It has also combined to lobby to meet with the government ministers for Transport and Energy to further state the case for concessions based in the reality of the high cost of living for pensioners.

Members of 2017-18 Concessions Working Group were Roger Wilson (convenor), John Speight, Elaine Speight and George Zangalis

Public Housing Working Group

As reported by the President, FGFP was one of four founding members of Hands Off Public Housing (HOPH) established in July 2017. Among the many activities undertaken during this reporting period were a very successful forum, street stalls to raise public awareness of the issues, meetings with public housing tenants, delegations to the Minister of Housing and a written submission to the Parliament of Victoria's upper house public inquiry into Stage 1 Public Housing Redevelopment Program.

HOPH worked to bring together a community – union campaign to defend the rights of public housing tenants, to stop the Victorian Government privatising a further 4,000 public housing stock and sell-off public housing land on 9 estates and fight for all monies allocated

to be redirected to the staged redevelopment of only current run-down stock and invest in the growth of public housing to meet the unmet needs of Victorians.

FGFP representatives on the Joint Committee of Hands Off Public Housing were Roger Wilson (chair), Lew Wheeler, Frank Cherry and Alan "Ugly" Chung.

Fiona Ross represented Friends of Public Housing Victoria, Marion Harper Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church, April Bragg Housing for the Aged Action Group.

FGFP Claims

FGFP current claims to Federal and State Governments state clearly what can be done to start moving to a fairer society. We thank Lew Wheeler for her work in updating these claims and for the Executive and VSC members for their work in finalising them. These claims have been sent to members of parliament and ministers in both Federal and State government and have informed meetings with members, ministers and advisors.

We will continue to take our claims to many more especially by deputation and or demonstration outside electoral offices and in other public spaces. What we do in this regard will help us grow in valuable experiences and activism and set the campaigning agenda for elections.

May 2017 Rally

In May, our post federal budget rally demonstrated the breadth and depth of the membership of FGFP, with speakers from VTHC, ECCV, Anti Poverty Network South Australia, CSMC, AUWU and FOPH. In the context of the budget they spoke on: fighting together for our rights; impact on pensioners and income support services for ethnic and other minorities; the inadequacy of Newstart and privatisation of Centrelink; outcomes/impact for single mothers and their children; impact on unemployed workers and the impact on public housing and tenants. The Trades Hall Choir sang during and at the end of the rally and we thank them for their inspiring presence at this and many other of our rallies and celebrations.

UN International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)

October saw us celebrate the International Day of the Older Person and Victorian Seniors Festival.

The VSC, with the AMWU hosted IDOP, which included an insightful, inspiring and rallying speaker, Rob Watts. Rob challenged us to recognise we must look at new forms of action, accepting that the many changes in institutions and society mean we can no longer only rely on responses we have used in the past.

As always we had the wonderful organisation from Frank Cherry and the delicious and generous catering from Kath Cherry, without whom the celebration would not have been a success.

2017 Victorian Seniors Festival 1 October

We had many volunteers to fill the roster and be present at our stall for the launch of the Victorian Seniors Festival at Federation Square. It was heartening to see the interest in our information and policy documents, with many stopping to talk and also to sign the HOPH document in support of public housing.

The response from so many showed there is enormous community support for equity overall and for public housing, informed by an understanding of its importance to equity and a fair go.

Over 8,500 individual information sheets were distributed along with 24 dozen bottles of water donated by two active and generous FGFP members. Under the '*Cop It Sweet*' Not Likely! Series, each year new material is added and other information sheets updated on issues such as pensions, unemployment, cost of living, public housing, pensioners living in income poverty, and homelessness.

10th Anniversary gathering

A highlight on Friday 13 October was the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of FGFP. What a privilege to celebrate the beginning and to thank those who made this beginning possible.

It gave an opportunity to honour the founding members and their organisations and the many others who enabled FGFP to thrive. Their lifelong activism and commitment has done so much to influence structural changes enabling more of a fair go to those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and "doing it hard".

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to AMWU for their ongoing support in so many ways, including wonderful meeting facilities each year. In addition to these facilities, the logistical support for rallies and other events could not be done without and the office space provided for our use is invaluable as a base and support for our ongoing work.

We recognise and give special thanks to Lew Wheeler and Claude Antolli as immediate past Co-convenors and Vice Presidents for their outstanding passion and work in giving us a spring board to go forward from and their wisdom and experience in informing our work.

Lew and Claude worked tirelessly over the past 4 years and remained members of the Executive Committee.

We also extend a huge thank you to John Speight for his leadership as President, Graham Stoodley for his tireless work and accuracy as Treasurer and Elaine Speight for her experience and regional perspective and all other members of the executive and the VSC for their unwavering activism and comradeship throughout the year.

With its range of good policies, claims and considerable action over many years the FGFP coalition is well placed to maximise its lobbying and campaigning efforts for up coming elections and to see progress in the realisation of these claims.

Together with the key priorities identified in the President's report the following policies and reforms require work.

Follow-up work in the year ahead

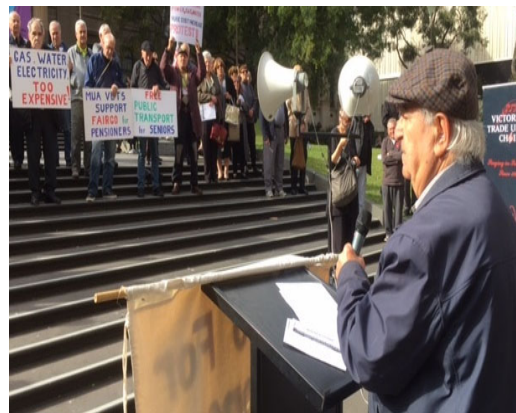
- call on all politicians to state their visions for Australia and how they will get there
- call on politicians to state if they will actively support FGFP claims if elected .
- develop a campaign to distribute and begin work on FGFP vision and recommendations for Australia as a caring and compassionate society
- hold a conference on these recommendations
- campaign to stop commercial-in-confidence when taking public money
- prepare information sheets on the reforms in the *Victorian Residential Tenancies Amendment Act*

So we reflect on and leave this past year and look to the future – a year to celebrate, a world to win.

Ann Davies and George Zangalis
Co Vice Presidents



Ann Davies discussing the next event



George Zangalis Co Vice President addresses the 25 May 2016 'Bust the Budget or be Busted' rally



Image available at [Wow247.co.uk](http://www.wow247.co.uk)
<http://www.wow247.co.uk/2016/01/14/chinese-new-year-2016/>

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is a privilege to be part of a coalition that has for the past 11 years continued with intelligent and experienced activism derived from working peoples' knowledge of how political economy affects them and all people.

In this time of a less compassionate society with the power of business supported by governments' to move dollars quicker than you can take a breath, these skills are needed even more now and FGFP has them with grit and much good humour.

Since reporting at the Annual General Meeting for 2016-17, industries continued being trashed by governments, labour markets and the economy were transforming driven by the hip sounding "Gig" economy and growth of non-employing businesses, years of wage stagnation continued as did austerity clauses written into Enterprise Bargaining Agreements, students remained lumbered with unfair education loans, 'affordable' housing was out of reach for so many, especially younger Australians, and privatisation of public housing was well underway in Victoria.

The independence of Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP) Coalition Victoria Incorporated remained the gold standard for social justice but meant we continued to run on a shoe string having not yet found a benefactor with deep pockets.

The work of FGFP has been made possible by the very many hours of volunteer work carried out by a strong and hard working Executive, its working groups and members of the Victorian Steering Committee. You are all legends as are all those listed below.

FGFP acknowledges the generosity of the affiliated organisations and individuals who donated so willingly to support our work in cash, cheque or by direct transfer and we thank you most warmly. Affiliated organisations: AMWU (Retired Members Division); MUA (Veterans Victoria); RBTU (Retired members) and ECCV. The following individuals donated funds towards FGFP 10th anniversary gathering:
Elaine Speight, Rita Camilleri, Kath & Frank Cherry, David Cragg, Kris & Neil, John Speight, Ann Davies, Graham Stoodley, Sylvie Leber, Lew Wheeler and Roger Wilson.

Special thanks to our event fund raisers, the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church for hosting a film afternoon, those filling the Xmas hamper and to Kath Cherry our fund

raising super whizz who donated \$465 from her gorgeous hand-crafted goods.

Special thanks also are due to the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) for the generosity shown in providing access to its facilities for meetings, functions and for office space, and logistics support for rallies and demonstrations.

Many thanks to AMWU staff for their support for our activities - nothing was too much trouble for this welcoming and dedicated staff.

We are indebted to AMWU (Retired Members Division) for members ongoing strong support including volunteering hours of work, financial and in-kind support, and sponsorship of the 2017 UN International Day of Older Persons. Thank you so much for sharing your human rights campaigning skills with FGFP.

We are also indebted to the Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church (MUPMC) for their ongoing support and for offering photocopying services. Donna Sensi, MUPMC Administrative Officer extraordinaire was ready to assist at short notice. Thank you one and all.

Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP) Coalition Victoria Incorporated - covers the period of the financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 as required by Consumer Affairs Victoria. The organisation has operated successfully and has ended the financial year with \$1,232.80 in the bank on 30 June 2018.

Kath Cherry preparing the display of hand-crafted cards at 2017 Seniors Festival Celebration Day



TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 30 June 2018 Bank as at 1 July 2017

\$2,237.40

Revenue

\$2,700.90

Donations in cash or cheque

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| - Organisations | \$0,850.00 |
| - Individuals | \$1,340.90 |
| - Events | 510.00 |

Interest

0.90

Expenditure

Printing & publishing

\$0,748.50

Media

\$0150.00

Radio 3CR

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| - announcement | \$100.00 |
| - donation | \$050.00 |

Social media

No charge

Campaigns

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Air fare – rally speaker | \$160.00 |
| Hands Off Public Housing | \$350.00 |

\$0,478.00

FGFP 10th anniversary gathering

\$1,800.00

Administration

\$0,478.00

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Annual report coordination | \$200.00 |
| Office Works materials | \$278.00 |

Bank Fees

\$0.017.50

Miscellaneous

\$0.015.00

Total expenditure

\$3,321.00

\$1,232.80

Bank as at 30 June 2018

Signed on behalf of the Officers
Graham Stoodley



Treasurer

Dated this 31st day of October 2018

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

FGFP Facebook

Interest in FGFP facebook page continues to grow with FGFP policy priorities and topical issues affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged people attracting attention. Depending on the issue, individual posts attracted a wide range of interest from very low to very high for this site.

A snapshot from a typical week showed 849 people were reached and 30 new posts were added to the page.

Overall the comments from readers have been respectful and rarely have any needed to be deleted.

The higher end range continued to relate to cost of living issues like rental housing, protecting Medicare from further privatisation, unethical banks, wait times for Centrelink phone assistance, job creation and unemployment. Also, the high cost of living for those on pensions and this reflects the figure that 33% of Age Pensioners live with the high risk of income poverty.

Sources for the posts were from some of our member organisations, articles from the FGFP website and from responsible media such as The Guardian, Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), The Conversation, New Matilda and The Australian Institute think tank.

Sylvie Leber Administrator, Facebook

FGFP Website

The new website introduced in 2017 was developing well during this reporting period with 2092 supporters registered and 1563 friends. Issues addressed similar to those on Facebook. The year ahead will be a period of consolidation of return visits. Joe Montero Administrator, Website.



Sylvie Leber



Joe Montero



Image available at <https://kunaaldoshi.wordpress.com/2015/03/08/unemployment/>

Honorary Administrative Assistant Valentina Satvedi Leydon

This annual report gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to Valentina and thank her for her dedication in the role of administrative assistant. In the 12 months Valentina was in this role she used her outstanding skills to fulfil all components of the role to the highest of standards. Of equal importance to the administrative skills Valentina brought to the role was her true understanding of social justice and her experience and expertise in community development. Her thoughtful and insightful contribution as a member of the Victorian Steering Committee was of immense benefit to FGFP in all its work and activities.

FGFP accepted Valentina's resignation with regret and we wish her well in all future activism and endeavours.



Waving Goodbye to Valentina. Image available at www.canstockphoto.com/%2Fwave-goodbye-0728343.html&psig=AOvVaw19GXOEVR-dMqRMqE4P5dG8&ust=15400041458827

10TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING

18 older people were recognised by FGFP during the 10th anniversary gathering awarded FGFP Life Achievement Awards and Certificates of Appreciation. All had made major contributions to the work of FGFP over a number of years.

Joseph Caputo OAM, JP immediate past Chairperson Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia & Vice-Chair, National FGFP presided over the presentation of awards. The introductions came with a story.

Life Achievement Awards

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Frank Cherry | met to hatch idea of pensioner action group |
| Patricia Reeve | furthered concept of FGFP |
| George Catsourakis | name FGFP came from Greek community |
| Marion Lau OAM, JP | representing Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) - foundation organisational member |
| Roger Wilson | met to hatch idea of pensioner action group |
| Ronda Held | representing Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria – foundation organisational member |
| Perce White | met to hatch idea of pensioner action group |
| Kath Cherry | fundraising whizz & caterer extraordinaire |
| George Zangalis | foundation member |
| Lew Wheeler | hatched ideas to broaden base & establish FGFP Individual Section. |

Certificates of Appreciation

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Steve Dargavel | State Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, member AMWU National Executive and National Council for unstinting support in recognition of the need for and growth of a broad based coalition of community groups, unions, faith groups and since 2013 individuals fighting for social justice. |
| Vic Guarino | Co-founder and President, Australian Pensioners' Voice fighting for justice for age pensioners. Joseph Caputo accepted this certificate on behalf of Vic, who was unable to be with us today. |
| Gino Iannazzo | Co-founder and Secretary, Australian Pensioners' Voice tirelessly working for justice for age pensioners. Frank Cherry accepted this certificate on behalf of Gino, who was unable to be with us today. |
| Marilyn King | Founder and President Willing Older Workers W.O.W! fighting for economic and social justice for older unemployed workers. Marilyn chose to present her snapshot as a dedicated volunteer in verse form read by the presiding member. |
| Kris Spark | Member Committee of Management, Housing for the Aged Action Group, FGFP Individual Section member for outstanding coordination of FGFP housing working group related to the work for the Victorian Residential <i>Tenancies Act</i> review. Kris was overseas and Lew Wheeler accepted this certificate on her behalf. |
| Pat Warriner | Pat Warriner, State Secretary, Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of Victoria fighting to protect the rights and interests of older people in our community. Pat had never flagged in her fight for and commitment to economic social justice. |
| Dr Irene Bouzo | Executive Officer, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria in recognition of Dr Bouzo's extensive knowledge, experience and professionalism in all areas of multiculturalism and for her strong support for a close working relationship with FGFP. This relationship has been very significant to FGFP and the broader community. Her commitment and expertise remains greatly appreciated. |

PHOTO GALLERY -

THROUGH THE YEARS 2009 - 2018



First rally 13 May 2009 at Flinders & Swanston Streets intersection, Melbourne



Move on said the Police – 13 May 2009



Get on Board Rally October 2012 From front left next to students Pat Warriner CPSA, Frank Cherry AMWU (Retired Members Division) and Alan Warriner CPSA last right are members Victorian Steering Committee surrounded by FGFP supporters

PHOTO GALLERY



Justice for the Poor rally 2015 held outside State Library of Victoria



2014 Seniors Festival Opening Day the first time FGFP participated with an information stall. FGFP volunteers staffed the stall and we actually ran out of information sheets due to high level of interest shown by festival goers in the issues of age discrimination in employment, low pension payments, cost of living pressures and increasing income and/or energy poverty amongst seniors struggling to survive on low incomes.

Homelessness is the most visible sign of inequality – More public housing is needed not less



FGFP AGM 30 November 2016. Front from left: Colin Ormsby, Joe Montero, Alan "Ugly" Chung, John Mathieson.

PHOTO GALLERY



Left to right: John Speight and John Catterina, AMWU (Retired Members Division), Roger Wilson 2015 Maritime Union of Australia (Victorian Veterans) FGFP President addressing the crowd, Vic Guarino, Australian Pensioners Voice and Frank Cherry AMWU (Retired Members Division) marshals for the rally, Don Laser AMWU (Retired Members Division), Susan Barclay out-of-sight CSMC, holding banner 'no more child poverty' at 14 October 2014 rally

NO FAT TO CUT CAMPAIGN

With the 29 November 2014 Victorian State election due, FGFP demanded from all Victorian politicians a commitment that if elected to Government they would not support passing on the unexpected cuts delivered by the federal Abbott coalition government. FGFP pointed out that pensioners and other concession card holders could not carry the additional costs of early concession cuts and increased fees and taxes. This outcome would mean they would be filling the gap between Victoria losing \$80 million a-year contribution towards its Concessions Scheme and the Federal Government's axing of the *National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions* 2-years early not due to expire until 30 June 2016.



20 May 2015 rally 'Stop the war on the poor' with speakers from right: Jeff Fiedler Housing for the Age Action Group (HAAG), Kerry Davies Council of Single Mothers and their Children, Emma King, Victorian Council of Social Service, and David Cragg, Victorian Trades Hall Council. Anne Learmonth also holding banner – banner maker/ banner craft teacher - and George Zangalis, rally Marshal, 2014-15 FGFP Victorian Steering Committee members as were Kerry, David and Sue Leigh for HAAG



FGFP had a double stall for the first time in 2015 in response to strong demand for our information resources at 2014 event

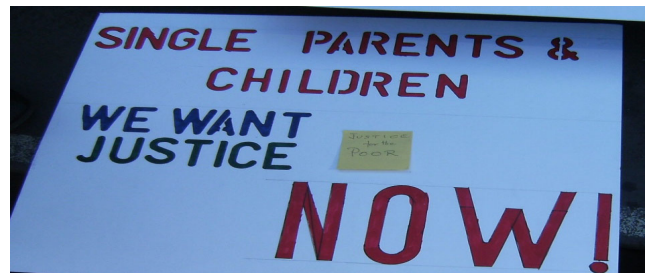
PHOTO GALLERY



From left Marion Harper MUPMC Pat Warriner CPSA and Claude Antolli MUPMC committed activists working tirelessly over many years for economic and social Justice.



Canberra rally 2014. Photo from Vintage Reds with our thanks. Since August 2018 also FGFP, Canberra area



From 1 January 2013, 65,000 single parents of whom 84% female headed were transferred from Parenting Payment to Newstart Allowance with many pushed into Income poverty



Justice for the Poor Rally 21 May 2014. Rally followed the release of savage cuts to welfare in the first budget of the Abbott Coalition Government. Second from left: Vic Guarino President Australian Pensioners Voice and centre Chris Lancucki Polish Community defending public hospitals both then Victorian Steering Committee members. Others in the foreground were committed supporters

PHOTO GALLERY

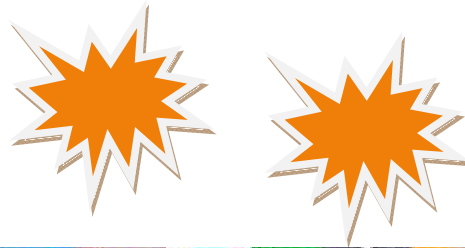


Image available at
https://zalarieunique.ru/image/diversity-clipart-equality/494995.html#gal_post_518_diversity-clipart-equality-15.jpg

AAP photo from article at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-09/australian-money/7704138>



20 May 2015 "Stop the War on the Poor" rally. Kerry Davies Council of Single Mothers and their Children (CSMC) urged the large crowd to stand against injustice against single mothers and their children and join with others representing people who are homeless, especially older people; aged pensioners; and people who are unemployed, particularly younger and older unemployed workers



Strong support for address by Commissioner for Senior Victorians Gerard Mansour in celebration of UN International Day of Older Persons 7 October 2015 hosted by FGFP sponsored by AMWU (Retired Members Division)

PHOTO GALLERY



'Bust the budget or be busted' 25 May 2016 rally. Portion of FGFP committed supporters standing to fight for social justice



Father Bob Maguire addresses the crowd at Fight against Poverty rally 15 October 2014 steps Parliament House of Victoria. From left: supporter, John Speight, John Catterina & Vic Guarino marshals, Roger Wilson, and Father Bob

PHOTO GALLERY



Victorian Trade Union Choir in splendid full voice at 25 May 2016 rally

From left those holding banners: Susan Barclay CSMC, Elaine Speight FGFP Individual Section Member and John Speight AMWU (Retired Members Division) 25 May 2016 rally

R CISM. IT STOPS WITH ME



2016 Victorian Seniors Festival 2 October. From left back row Alan Richardson and Frank Cherry (AMWU (Retired Members Division), front row: Marilyn King, W.O.W!, John Speight (AMWU (Retired Members Division), Kath Cherry with interested festival goers one in discussion and another signing on to receive e-news.

PHOTO GALLERY



Lew Wheeler FGFP co-vice-president helping to set-up for 25 May 2016 rally as Roger Wilson President checks notes



Marion Lau OAM JP representing ECCV has spoken at FGFP annual rallies since 2014. Kris Spark co-ordinated FGFP participation in Victorian Residential Tenancies Act review



Crowd gathers for demonstration outside the Premier's city office Treasury Place, Melbourne, 19 October 2016 to demand action on tackling poverty

PHOTO GALLERY



Frank Cherry calling out the Premier on cost of living pressures as increasing number of people on low incomes need a helping hand to cope with 'bill shock' and energy poverty. Demonstration held 20 April 2017 outside the Premier's city office, Treasury Place, Melbourne. From left: Graham, Sam, Lew, Roger, Frank, – "Ugly", and Ann at 'Cost of Living' demonstration outside Premier's city office, Treasury Place Melbourne.



24 May 2017 rally. Frank Cherry introducing the next speaker with Annie McLaughlin 3CR – centre – recording the rally for her 'Solidarity Breakfast' radio program. FGFP is interviewed on this program monthly.

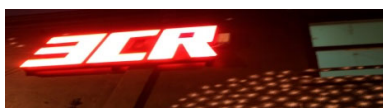


PHOTO GALLERY



Demonstration held on 2 March 2018 outside the Minister for Housing Electoral Office. From left Roger Wilson stressing the need for more public housing not less and Lew Wheeler FGFP Executive Committee members and Graham Stoodley FGFP Treasurer



Elaine Speight member FGFP Individual Section asks the question of the Minister – heart = care and compassion



Above demonstration with Fiona Ross - centre front – founder of Friends of Public Housing Victoria has worked tirelessly the past 6 years to have the government invest funds in the long-term growth of public housing to met the high level of unmet need which is growing at 500 a month in 2018

PHOTO GALLERY



Alessandro Stello, musician, Lew Wheeler, Marion Lau OAM JP and Joseph Caputo celebrating International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) 6 October 2016. Alessandro performance courtesy ECCV



Frank Cherry, addressing seminar in celebration IDOP, held 5 October 2017

Gino Iannazzo Secretary Australian Pensioners' Voice (APV), photographer extraordinaire so generous in donating photographs to FGFP for many years to June 2017



Vic Guarino, President APV active member VSC over the years to June 2017, Nikolaus Rittinghausen ECCV representative and continuing active member VSC and Gino.



Supporters over many years attending annual rallies and demonstrations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FGFP continued to receive very generous support given by community groups, unions, faith groups and individuals. This support has been through both donations of funds and in-kind support. The latter ranges from art and design work, handcrafted cards and dolls, making of placards, photography and catering for functions through office supplies and stamps, through bulk photocopying, driver and logistics support, printing materials, provision of office space, meeting facilities, to sponsorships and hundreds of hours of volunteer work.

All funds and in-kind support are greatly appreciated and without this very generous assistance FGFP Victoria would sink. Our volunteers both representing affiliated organisations and those from FGFP individual section are collectively a special group of committed people and we thank you most sincerely for your tireless efforts and activism.

We also want to thank the many hundreds of supporters who attended our rallies and other events who came out onto the streets to fight against inequality – that is, income poverty and wealth inequality - in Victoria as elsewhere in Australia but also to stand with FGFP to fight for a fair, just, diverse, compassionate and sustainable society – a fair go for life for all.

David Cragg retired during this reporting period and we thank David for providing ongoing support from Victorian Trades Hall. We wish David every success and best wishes for the future. We are also happy to report David remained a Victorian Steering Committee Executive Committee member.

3CR Melbourne Community Radio
Claude Antolli
Roselyne Antolli
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU)
Victorian Branch staff:
Steve Dargavel State Secretary
AMWU staff: Carol, Chris, Jenny, Mick, Ali
AMWU (Retired Members Division)
Australian Unemployed Workers' Union
Owen Bennett
Dr Irene Bouzo to May 2018
John Burne
Rita Camilleri
Joseph A Caputo OAM JP
George Catsourakis to October 2017
John Catterina
Edith Chen
Frank Cherry OAM
Kath Cherry
Keith Coffey
Vera Considine
David Cragg
Combined Pensioners &
Superannuants Association of Victoria
Council of Single Mothers & their Children
Victoria
Darebin Progress Association
Jenny Davidson
Ann Davies
Chip Eling
Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
Father Bob Maguire
Federated Greek Elderly Citizens of
Melbourne and Victoria
Fix Pension Poverty
Pas Forgione - Anti-Poverty Network, SA
April Bragg
Jeff Fiedler
Marion Harper
Vicki Herbert
Luke Hilakari
Heather Hill
Christopher Lancucki AM
Carole Lander
Marion Lau OAM JP



Howard King leave of absence from February 2018
Marilyn King leave of absence from February 2018
Valentina Satvedi Leydon to mid-May 2018
Paul "Smiley" McCourt
Maritime Union of Australia (Veterans)
John Mathieson
Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial
Church
Eddie Micallef
Brendan O'Dwyer to September 2017
Leanne Petrides
Polish Community Council of Victoria
Rail, Bus and Tram Union
Alan Richardson
Nikolaus Rittinghausen
Fiona Ross
Donna Sensi
Kris Spark
Elaine Speight
John Speight
Graham Stoodley
Donna Swan
Les Twentyman OAM
LT Fund
Victorian Trades Hall Council
Mary Walsh
Alan Warriner
Pat Warriner
Lew Wheeler
Perce White
Roger Wilson
George Zangalis



FGFP support/other working together:

Anti-Poverty Network, SA
Public Dental Health Campaign, Victoria
Fix Pension Poverty Campaign
Housing for the Aged Action Group
Housing for the Aged Coalition



LIKE WHAT WE DO?

SUPPORT FGFP NOW

Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP) Coalition Victoria Incorporated is an independent non-profit organisation fighting to help end inequality – that is, income poverty and wealth inequality – in Australia and give everyone a fair go for life.

OUR INDEPENDENCE IS OUR GOLD STANDARD

- Close to 3 million Australians live below the international poverty line
- 1.5 million older Australians living on the Age Pension as their only or main source of income at risk of poverty
- 33.3% of women over the age of 60 live in permanent income poverty
- Over 19% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples live in poverty
- 1 in 3 older people 65 years and over living in poverty were born in a non-English speaking country
- Close to 19% of migrants whose first language is not English live in poverty compared to 11.6% of those who were Anglo-Australian born¹
- Close to 2.9 million people are either jobless or seeking more hours of work, of whom 730,000 are unemployed, 1.3 million workers are underemployed, and 1.02 million comprise the “hidden” unemployed
- One in 200 people in Australia are homeless on any night
- 3.6 million Australians have needed food assistance in the past year so they could feed themselves or their family of whom 48% have paid jobs either full-time, part-time, casual or by the task.

Please help FGFP volunteers to continue their vital work by making a donation on our website at

fairgoforpensioners@fairgoforpensioners.com

Donations can be made to:

**Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP) Coalition Victoria Incorporated
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB 063 011
Account 10704139**

FGFP gives much thanks to you for any financial assistance you can provide.



FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS (FGFP)

COALITION VICTORIA INCORPORATION A0061591N

WHO WE ARE

Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition Inc (FGFP) was established in Victorian in 2007 and is an independent not-for-profit coalition of community-based organisations, unions, faith groups and individuals advocating for social justice for pensioners, single parents and their children, unemployed people, affordable housing for renters in all housing types, particularly public housing and other low-income groups marginalised by financial hardship and inequality - that is, income poverty and wealth inequality. FGFP is non-party political.

WHAT WE DO

FGFP advocates for and mobilises pensioners, single parents and their children, unemployed people and other low-income groups and their supporters to gain significant improvements in income and related services for those living in poverty or in financial hardship.

Our work includes direct action, advocacy, community organising, building the coalition, media, public education and research and is underpinned by human rights and activism. We work towards a just society where everyone counts and gets a fair go for life.

For more information contact

VICTORIA

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Ann Davies – Vice President & Public Officer
0409 192 668

George Zangalis – Vice President
0417 777 542

Web: www.fgfpcoalition.com

Email: fgfpcoalition@gmail.com

Facebook (direct link):

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fair-Go-For-Pensioners Coalition/240292362816033](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fair-Go-For-Pensioners%20Coalition/240292362816033)

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