



Strategic plan 2020-2024

Our vision

Economic Justice Australia's (EJA) vision is a fair social security system in Australia.

EJA is the peak organisation for community legal centres that provide specialist legal services for people about their social security issues and rights.

Our purpose:

We work to achieve a fair social security system in Australia by:

- Supporting member centres to deliver high quality legal services to people interacting with the social security system to ensure they can navigate the system and have access to their entitlements; and
- Driving changes to social security law, policy and administration to improve outcomes for people experiencing disadvantage.

EJA provides expert advice to government on social security reform to make it more effective and accessible. Our recommendations are informed by our members' decades of frontline experience.

Our law and policy reform work:

- Strengthens the effectiveness and integrity of our social security system;
- Educates the community; and
- Improves people's lives by reducing poverty and inequality.

Our principles

Our work recognises the right to social security contained in article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to which Australia is a party.

A fair social security system is based on:

- the right of all people in need to an adequate level of income support which is protected by law;
- the right of people to be treated with respect and dignity by Centrelink and those administering the Social Security and Family Assistance system;
- the right to accessible information about Social Security and Family Assistance rights and entitlements, obligations and responsibilities;
- the right to receive prompt and appropriate service and Social Security and Family Assistance payments without delay;
- the right to a free, independent, informal, efficient and fair appeal system;

- the right to an independent complaints system;
- the right to independent specialist legal advice and representation; and
- the right to natural justice and procedural fairness

Our Key Values

Economic Justice Australia is committed to the following key values:

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the land. We respect Indigenous experience and cultures and will work with Indigenous people and organisations to overcome the systemic disadvantage faced by Indigenous people.
2. We recognise the inherent dignity, and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings.
3. We respect and value diversity and promote the need for a compassionate, fair and inclusive Australia.
4. We value the voices of the people we serve and will work to ensure that they are heard in our own organisations and by the wider society and government.
5. We represent the interests of disadvantaged people in Australia and fearlessly promote and defend those interests through evidence-based, non-party political advocacy.
6. We act with honesty, openness, integrity and impartiality.

Our Strategic Priorities 2020-2024

Disadvantaged and vulnerable people are supported by fair and just the social security system

Objectives

1. Government has the benefit of member centre casework experience and expertise when considering law and policy reform in the area of Social Security and Family Assistance, in the form of evidence-based advice and research provided by EJA.
2. Support to disadvantaged and vulnerable people is increased as a result of any implementation of recommendations made by EJA to government about how the social security system can be improved.
3. Government and other key stakeholders are engaged with EJA through its effective communications, maximising the likelihood of recommendations being implemented.
4. Awareness in the broader community of why a fair social security system is important for everyone is increased as a result of engagement with EJA's effective communications.

Our membership is strong and engaged

Objectives

1. The capacity of member centres to undertake their centre's social security-related work is developed and supported through the facilitation of training, development of resources and information sharing.

2. Systemic policy issues that member centres identify through their casework are given voice through effective communication of those issues and engagement of key stakeholders with and on behalf of member centres.
3. The work and value of EJA's member centres is effectively communicated by EJA to government and other key stakeholders, including the wider community.

Economic Justice Australia is sustainable

Objectives

1. The work and value of EJA is effectively communicated by EJA to government and other key stakeholders, including the wider community.
2. Recurrent and diversified funding and other support for Economic Justice Australia in the form of partnerships, pro bono or in-kind contributions is secured and increased.
3. Best practice in management and governance is maintained, including accountability to government, members and the broader community.
4. A professional work environment continues to be provided for EJA staff.
5. EJA's strategic influence is maximised through innovation and adaption to the changing environment for its operation.