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from
from
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Extent of income inequality in Australia

There will always be income inequality because of unequal input efforts and unequal output productivity. Even the Bible has servants with unequal inputs of one talent, 2 talents and 5 talents. The Bible has unequal outputs for the same day's pay - of 12 hour day (less meal breaks), 9 hr 6 hr 3 hr one hour. So who are we to pretend that all incomes should be equal.

One important aspect is to strive for equal OPPORTUNITY.

Another is to minimise under-payment for services rendered.

Two important areas of underpayment are

- swimming teachers
- farm workers (incl some small-scale owners)

About 30 years ago, swimming teachers had their pay halved so as to minimise the cost of school swim lessons. This "compulsory volunteering" still continues when the community can now afford to rectify the situation. It has recently started to address a similar situation in disability care. Why should swimming teachers still be forgotten?

Many farm workers are on low income because of unfair auction system for price of produce. The fair work commission could be authorised to set minimum produce rates for good-quality produce.

An important principle for provision of social security payments is that the payments be related to the available revenue stream. It is unacceptable to keep increasing taxes to cover reductions in revenue streams.

submission by Peter Dixon