



Poverty and Social Exclusion

Edited by Justin Healey



Poverty persists in Australia despite the opportunities available in such an affluent country. How is poverty in Australia defined - what is absolute poverty as opposed to relative poverty, and who are the affected groups in our community? What are the causes of poverty? At a time when Australia avoided the global recession, why do so many experience financial hardship, housing stress and income inequality? Almost 1 in 6 Australians of working age is reliant on income support - does Australia's welfare system provide a safety net or promote welfare dependency? Social exclusion is closely linked to poverty, as people face deprivation and in the process are being left out. This book explores how the policy of social inclusion aims to overcome the barriers that exclude participation and opportunity by addressing poverty, income inequality, lack of access to the job market, poor educational outcomes, housing affordability, poor health and wellbeing, lack of access to social supports and networks, exclusion from services, and discrimination. Is Australia the land of the fair go, for richer and poorer?

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