

# **Common Action - Bust The Budget** **MASS PROTEST!**

**1pm Sunday July 6 - Sydney Town Hall**

## **Tell the new Senate: Reject Abbott's Budget**

The new Senate sits on Monday July 7 and it will be under intense pressure from Abbott to cave in to his Budget. But Australian citizens can stand up for a democratic Parliament and ensure that Senators know that they can defy any threats and abuse from the Abbott government and the Murdoch media.

That's why the national protest organised by the trade union movement on Sunday July 6 is so important. Common Action believes that every individual and organisation who opposes the budget should come out for this rally.

### ***Why the Budget is wrong***

There is no debt crisis, no budget crisis, and no spending splurge which needs to be 'fixed'. Government spending has been increasing by just 2% per year since the 2007 defeat of Howard – less than the rate of inflation.

Australia's public debt, at 14% of Gross Domestic Product, is a fraction of the 72% average of rich nations.

The budget deficit at just 1.8% of GDP is also one of the lowest among rich countries and is almost entirely the result of falling revenue.

The Budget includes a combination of tax cuts and spending cuts, meaning it doesn't have much impact on the size of the budget deficit.

***The Abbott government is striking hard at the living standards of the poorest and most vulnerable – single parents, unemployed, people with disabilities, students, pensioners.***

***Abbott is implementing the plans of the Business Council of Australia, which represents the top 100 corporations, most of them foreign-owned.***

***The Budget is a clear victory for the 1%***

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1513687442192862/>



## **Medicare 'co-payment' will destroy Medicare as we know it**



The Abbott budget's goal is to decisively end publicly funded health care in favour of privately funded care, with visits to the doctor eventually being covered by private health insurance for those who can afford it. This will greatly increase the cost of the health system, reduce its quality and create greater inequality. The \$7 tax for visits to the doctor will also apply to tests, scans x-rays and ultrasounds.

## **Abbott's budget attacks workers, pensioners and the public sector**

Pensioners will be hit by cuts to the indexation rate for pensions, thus preventing them from keeping up with increases in the cost of living on top of lifting the pension age to 70 by 2030.

Unemployed people aged under 30 years will be denied unemployment benefits for the first 6 months of unemployment.

The Australian Public service will be reduced by 16,500 jobs, including 4,500 from the Australian Tax Office, plus a further 2.5% efficiency dividend.

States will be offered incentive payments to privatise more of our public assets.

## **Abbott budget attacks the environment**

The Budget attack on environment policy contradicts the science. Direct Action spending to reduce carbon emissions is capped, and funds to the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology are cut. The Climate Change Authority, Low Carbon Australia Ltd and Australian Renewable Energy Agency have been axed.



## **Abbott Budget attacks education**

60% of the Gonski funding for schools to fairly meet education needs will never be paid because the Budget only commits funds up to 2017.

The Budget will make university and TAFE students take on massive debt at high interest rates to replace half the federal government's current support for higher education, a cut of \$3.15 billion over 4 years.

## **Let's get organising**

Australia urgently needs a nation-wide alliance to escalate the protests against the Abbott government to make sure we have a **One Term Tony**.

Australia needs a stronger left movement to fight for the workers and the marginalised, to confront corporate power and create a fairer and ecologically sustainable world.

[www.commonaction.org.au](http://www.commonaction.org.au)

**Bust the Budget Mass Rally Sunday 6th July 1pm @Sydney Town Hall**