



Dear Australian Parliamentarians,

The Federal Government has announced plans to axe safe lending laws – essential consumer protections designed to protect ordinary people from the sorts of terrible lending practices we saw during the global financial crisis and banking royal commission.

**We are calling on you to stand up for Australians and block this harmful law when it is introduced into Parliament.**

**People will be worse off.** When people are given loans or credit cards they can't afford, the human cost is high. The banking royal commission heard shocking stories of banks giving aged pensioners 30-year mortgages, relying on fraudulent loan documents provided by car dealers, and paying thousands in kickbacks to loan 'introducers'. We'll see even more of this if banks and other lenders are not legally required to take care when lending.

**This will lead to a debt disaster.** We are experiencing our first recession in nearly 30 years and high levels of household debt will slow down the national economic recovery. Australia already has the second highest level of household debt in the world. Banks and other lenders should not be given a green light by the government to burden people with even more debt and trap households in a cycle of persistent debt.

**This change would contradict the very first recommendation of the banking royal commission.** Commissioner Kenneth Hayne called for safe lending laws to be enforced, not dismantled.

We write to you as community organisations, financial counsellors, and thousands of people concerned about the government's disastrous proposal. This policy will hurt people and hinder our economic recovery. These changes will take away people's rights and give more power to the banks.

If this law is passed, people will be left to pick up the pieces for years to come while banks and other lenders are given a blank cheque to profit from aggressive lending.

**We need you to stand up for our community and protect safe lending laws.**

STOP THE  
**#DEBTDISASTER**



## Organisations signed on to the open letter to Save Safe Lending

ACOSS  
ACTCOSS  
ACTU  
Albany Community Legal Centre  
Alliance for Gambling Reform  
AMES Australia  
Anglicare Australia  
Anglicare Tasmania  
Anglicare SA  
Australian Women Against Violence Alliance  
Bendigo Family and Financial Services  
Berrill & Watson Lawyers  
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
C3 Church Carlingford  
Cairns Community Legal Centre  
Canberra Community Law Care Incorporated  
Catholic Social Services Australia  
Caxton Legal Centre  
CCLSWA  
Centre for Women's Economic Safety  
CHOICE  
Christians Against Poverty  
Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Hobart  
Community Housing Industry Association  
Community Legal Centres Tasmania  
Community Legal WA  
Community Information and Support Victoria  
Consumer Action Law Centre  
Consumers' Federation of Australia  
Council of Single Mothers and their Children  
Domestic Violence NSW  
Domestic Violence Victoria  
Earth Garden Foundation  
Economic Abuse Reference Group NSW  
Economic Justice Australia  
FamilyCare  
FareShare  
Federation of Community Legal Centres  
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria)  
Finance Sector Union  
Financial Counselling Australia  
Financial Counselling Network  
Financial Counselling Victoria  
Financial Counsellors Association Queensland  
Financial Counsellors Association Tasmania  
Financial Counsellors Australian Capital Territory  
Financial Counsellors' Association of NSW  
Financial Counselling Association of WA  
Financial Rights Legal Centre  
Financial Toolbox  
Finucare Financial Counselling  
Gender Equity Victoria  
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand  
Gosnells Community Legal Centre  
Hobart Community Legal Service  
Illawarra Legal Centre  
Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN)  
Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre  
Kimberley Community Legal Services  
Kingsford Legal Centre  
Knowmore  
Lifeline Christian Church  
Lifeline Broken Hill Regional  
Lokahi Foundation  
Financial Counselling Service  
Mawer Money  
Midlas  
Money School  
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association NSW  
National Shelter  
NCOSS  
Nexus Primary Health  
No to Violence  
North Queensland Women's Legal Service  
Northern Community Legal Centre  
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre  
Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre  
NSW Financial Inclusion Network  
NTCOSS  
Peel Community Legal Services  
Penrith Women's Health Centre  
Pilbara Community Legal Service  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre  
QCOSS  
Queensland Consumers Association  
Redfern Legal Centre  
Salvation Army  
SCALES Community Legal Centre  
Shelter Housing Action Cairns  
Shelter WA  
Shepparton Family and Financial Services  
Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre  
Simple Solutions Accounting Services  
Slater & Gordon  
SACOSS  
South Australian Financial Counsellors' Association  
Southcare  
Tenants Queensland Inc  
The Spiers Centre  
St Kilda Legal Service  
The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Top End Women's Legal Service  
U Ethical  
Uniting VicTas  
Uniting WA  
UnitingCare Australia  
UnitingCommunities  
Victorian Council of Social Service  
WACOSS Western Australian Council of Social Service  
Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service  
WESNET  
Western NSW Community Legal Centre  
Westjustice  
Windsor Road Baptist Church  
WIRE  
Women Lawyers of Western Australia  
Women's Legal Centre ACT  
Women's Legal Services Australia  
Women's Legal Service NSW  
Women's Legal Service Queensland  
Women's Legal Service Victoria  
Women's Safety NSW  
Youth Action  
Youth Legal Service

**STOP THE  
#DEBTDISASTER**

## Individuals signed on to the open letter to Save Safe Lending

**Professor Elise Bant**

Professor of Private Law and Commercial Regulation, UWA Law School

**Professor Kevin Davis AM**

Professor of Finance, University of Melbourne

**Professor Allan Fels AO**

Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne

**Professor Dimity Kingsford-Smith**

Professor of Law, UNSW

**Professor Gail Pearson**

Professor of Business Law, University of Sydney

**Professor Jeannie Marie Paterson**

Professor of Law, University of Melbourne

**Professor Ian Ramsay**

Harold Ford Professor of Commercial Law; Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor; Director, Centre for Corporate Law

**Professor Eileen Webb**

Professor of Law and Ageing, University of South Australia

**Carolyn Bond AO**

Past co-CEO, Consumer Action Law Centre

**Robert M C Brown AM**

Consumer advocate and Chartered Accountant

**Jenni Mack AM**

Consumer Advocate

**Denis Nelthorpe AM**

Past CEO, WEstjustice

**Colin Neave AM**

Former Australian Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Scott Pape OAM**

Barefoot Investor

**Rod Stowe, PSM, FRSN**

Former NSW Fair Trading Commissioner

**Dr Becky Batagol**

Associate Professor, Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Monash Law, Monash University

**Associate Professor Jennifer Balint**

Associate Professor in Socio-Legal Studies, Criminology, University of Melbourne

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Associate Professor, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide

**Justin Malbon**

Adjunct Professor of Law, Griffith University

**Dr Paul Harrison**

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**Nicola Howell**

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Managing Principal NSW, Maurice Blackburn

**Irene Savidis**

Witness, Banking Royal Commission

**Robert Regan**

Witness, Banking Royal Commission

**Grant Stewart**

Witness, Banking Royal Commission

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Witness, Banking Royal Commission

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Senior Financial Counsellor

**Sandra Blake**

Small Business Financial Counsellor

**Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon**

Author, How to Get Mortgage-Free Like Me

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Financial Counsellor

**Margaret Marie Watts**

Financial Counsellor

**Conrad Dwyer**

Financial Counsellor

**Raewyn Darlington**

Financial Counsellor

**Joanne Hunt**

Financial Counsellor

**Merlene Price**

Financial Counsellor

**Joanne Hunt**

Financial Counsellor

**Stuart Barber**

Financial Counsellor

**Sofia Ehrlich**

Financial Counsellor

**Louise Cormie**

Financial Counsellor

**Jo Parkin**

Financial Counsellor

**Ronald Chan**

Financial Counsellor

**Greg Pendlebury**

Financial Counsellor

**Dorianne Oliver**

Financial Counsellor

**Vesna Horley**

Financial Counsellor

**Linda Burgess**

Financial Counsellor

**Kristy Wilson**

Financial Counsellor

**Emylee N Tuzon**

Financial Counsellor

**Karen Armstrong**

Financial Counsellor

**Eileen Gibson**

Financial Counsellor

**Neil Gilford**

Financial Counsellor

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Financial Counsellor

**Bettina Stewart**

Financial Counsellor

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Financial Counsellor

**Caroline Summerfield**

Financial Counsellor

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Financial Counsellor

**Levi Boschetti**

Financial Counsellor

**Sarah Clarke (Pace)**

Financial Counsellor

**Jenny Elvey**

Financial Counsellor

**Debbie Welsh**

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Lawyer

**Alex Mould**

Lawyer

**Stacey Price**

Lawyer

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Solicitor

**Naomi Delaney**

Solicitor

**David Hofierka**

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Religious Clergy

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Pastor

**Amanda Francis**

Pastor

**Matthew Samperi**

Pastor

**Robert Gordon Herrgott**

Pastor, Presbyterian Church

**Ps Jo Wilton**

Senior Minister

**Simon Risson**

Senior Minister

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**Rev. Simon Clemow**Senior Pastor, Hobart City  
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**Hutch Hussein**Senior Manager,  
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Counsellor

**Yola Walicka**

Community worker

**Els De Muijnck**Family and Domestic  
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Community worker

**Lauren Thomas**Partnership and Project  
Director**Michael Joyce**

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England**Linda Richardson**Regional Leader WA,  
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