



# General Election 2024 Manifesto

## **Reducing Poverty:**

- Implement targeted policies to reduce poverty among single-parent and low-income families, ensuring they are prioritized within a national anti-poverty strategy.

## **Social Welfare Payments and Cost of Living**

- Adjust welfare payments to align with the rising cost of living, providing immediate relief for single-parent and low-income families.

## **Income Thresholds and Benefits**

- Raise income thresholds for welfare benefits so that families can transition into employment without risking essential supports.

## **Reform the Family Law System**

- Modernise the family law system to reduce delays, inconsistencies, and prioritise the well-being of children.
- Increase funding for Alternative Dispute Resolution and shared parenting courses to encourage non-court solutions when safe.
- Remove child maintenance enforcement from the primary carer's responsibility, providing state-backed enforcement for maintenance orders.
- Expand access to Legal Aid by raising income thresholds to ensure parents in family law proceedings have legal representation.
- Standardize and cap the costs of court expert reports, regulating access to these critical assessments.
- Commit to greater transparency in the family law system by publishing statistics on case outcomes to inform future reforms.

## **Child Maintenance**

- Exclude child maintenance payments from means-testing assessments for all benefits, such as housing and medical cards, ensuring that all children can benefit directly from these supports.
- Establish a streamlined and enforceable system for child maintenance to reduce administrative burdens on parents and secure consistent support for children.

## **Affordable Childcare and Early Years Education**

- Introduce a publicly funded childcare system to ensure affordable childcare options for all families, especially single and low-income parents.
- Ensure universal access to high-quality early years education, giving all children, regardless of family income, a strong educational start.

## Housing Crisis

- Expand emergency housing options and develop sustainable pathways out of homelessness, especially for lone-parent families.
- Enhance rental protections to prevent family displacement, providing greater security for renting families.

## Widow's Pension for Cohabiting Couples

- Enact legislation to extend the Widow's Pension to cohabiting couples in first year of government.

## **Young Parents**

- Address homelessness among young parents, with targeted housing supports for those living in hidden homelessness or unstable accommodations.
- Provide comprehensive educational supports, including financial aid, childcare, and affordable housing, to enable young parents to pursue education and improve their socio-economic status.
- Increase Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence awareness in schools, and provide training for practitioners to support young parents affected by violence and coercive control.
- Expand mental health services to support young parents experiencing severe mental health issues, focusing on those affected by homelessness, DSGBV, and poverty.
- Supply essential prenatal and postnatal nutritional supplements free of charge to young mothers to ensure the health of both mother and baby.



**teenparents**  
support programme

## **Kinship Care**

- Guarantee kinship carers access to the Guardian's Payment, recognizing the critical role they play in child welfare.
- Standardize local authority succession rules to protect children in kinship care from the risk of homelessness following the death of a tenant.
- Remove means-testing for medical card eligibility for children in kinship care, treating them on par with children in foster care.

