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Wages going backwards for Australian workers

Wages are not growing for any Australian workers and are going backwards for those in the private sector according to figures released this morning by the ABS.

The figures show that wage growth is now 2.1%, completely erased by CPI which sits at 2.1%. Under the Turnbull Government wages are no longer growing for Australian workers.

Recent polling conducted by ReachTel for the ACTU showed that 80% of Australian workers either hadn't had an increase in pay in the last 12 months or had received an increase so small it had not covered the increases in the cost of living.

The latest Household Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey showed Australia hadn't had a pay rise since 2009. The median disposable income for an entire household adjusted for inflation was \$79,160 in 2016 dollars. In 2016, it was \$79,244.

Quotes attributable to ACTU President Michele O'Neil:

"Australian workers need a pay rise, and these figures prove we need to change the rules to make this happen.

"Wages are not growing. The Turnbull Government is failing working people.

"When the system is out of balance, this is what happens. Employers and the big end of town have too much power, and working people are going backwards.

"Working people need to be given the tools and the power to win pay rises. Enterprise level bargaining is failing and working people need to be able to band together in larger groups and negotiate across industries and sectors.

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