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AUSTRALIAN LIVING STANDARDS THREATENED BY BIG GOVERNMENT: IPA

The long term trend of better living standards for all Australians is being threatened by intrusive government regulations and wasteful spending, according to free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

“Most aspects of Australian life have been improving over many decades, but could be even better if it wasn’t for regulations fuelling cost of living pressures and making housing unaffordable,” says IPA Senior Fellow Dr Mikayla Novak.

New IPA research released today, *Things are Getting Better All the Time*, co-authored with the IPA’s Ian Mence Fellow for Entrepreneurship Dominic Talimanidis, outlines how life has improved dramatically for Australians, in terms of health, earnings and work, economic changes, and technological developments.

“It is largely accepted by economists that more and more spending by government has dragged down economic growth, hurting our living standards,” says Dr Novak.

“If we want to give Australians the very best shot of achieving the life they wish to live, we need to free ourselves from the tightening shackles of burdensome government.

“Media commentary focuses upon the latest crisis, so we often ignore the astounding achievement that Australians are today wealthier, healthier, smarter, and better connected than ever before.

“Life in Australia has been getting better all the time, and the challenge will be to ensure this continues by ensuring big government doesn’t get in the way.

“The only areas of our lives that are stagnating are in industries highly regulated by or dominated by government. The cost of education, healthcare and utilities have all increased dramatically while in other private-sector dominated industries like consumer electronics prices have actually fallen dramatically,” says Dr Novak.

The IPA’s new report, *Things are Getting Better All the Time*, is available to download [here](#).

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