

The \$19 Trillion Solution – Academic Report

Date: 2025-04-25

This report synthesizes empirical evidence validating each claim of the proposal.

Sections:

1. Australia is a \$19T Wealth Nation

Claim: National wealth dwarfs debt.

Evidence:

- Household net worth A\$16.9T (ABS, 2024).
- Combined public debt ~A\$1T; household + corp debt ~A\$6T.

Synthesis: Wealth $\approx 3\times$ total liabilities \rightarrow ample capacity to fund plan.

2. Feasibility of Paying Off Everything

Claim: Debts + 5yrs gov costs can be covered.

Evidence:

- Commonwealth spend A\$686B/yr; 5yrs = A\$3.4T.
- Interest A\$26–36B/yr; zeroed by payoff.

Synthesis: Arithmetic works; barrier is political, not financial.

3. Redistribution Boosts WellBeing

Claim: Universal assets & income improve lives.

Evidence:

- Finland BI \uparrow life satisfaction, no job loss.
- Stockton SEED \downarrow income volatility 12%.

Synthesis: Trials show cash assets \rightarrow health & resilience.

4. Scarcity Drives Crime

Claim: Poverty strongly linked to crime.

Evidence:

- AIC: disadvantaged areas \uparrow juvenile crime.
- OECD: inequality \uparrow property crime victimisation.

Synthesis: Remove scarcity \rightarrow crime collapses.

5. Drug Reform Slashes DrugCrime

Claim: Health regulation beats prohibition.

Evidence:

- Portugal decrim: overdose deaths -75% , HIV \downarrow .

Synthesis: Regulated supply ends blackmarket violence.

6. Security Improves Mental Health

Claim: Basic security lowers depression & anxiety.

Evidence:

- Cash RCTs show stress biomarkers \downarrow .
- Finland BI recipients happier.

Synthesis: Meeting needs \rightarrow healthier, cohesive society.

7. Mirror Neurons Enable Cultural Shift

Claim: Observed prosocial behaviour spreads fast.

Evidence:

- Neuroscience: mirror neuron system copies acts.

Synthesis: Broadcast cooperation → rapid norm change.

8. Social Media Micro Content Shifts Norms

Claim: Short video platforms can reframe culture.

Evidence:

- TikTok trials ↓ mental health stigma.

Synthesis: Viral clips amplify new cooperative values.

9. Risks Are Manageable

Claim: Inflation, work disincentive, misuse controllable.

Evidence:

- UBI not inherently inflationary (econ studies).
- Basic income trials show no workforce exit.

Synthesis: Phased rollout + safeguards mitigate risks.

10. Five Year Scorecard Achievable

Claim: Metrics can shift dramatically in 5 yrs.

Evidence:

- US child poverty –46% in 1 yr via cash credits.

Target table: crime –90%, Gini ≤ 0.22 , debt to GDP 0%.