

[9.26] The statements reveal a high level of variability in personal circumstances and needs:

- a. The number of persons in the households varies from 7 to 1.
- b. Some households have dependent children, in others children have left home, and others still have children who contribute to the household.
- c. Some households have spouses/others who contribute separate working incomes, in others other adult household members do not contribute a separate income. In some households, spouses contribute social security payments.
- d. Some households receive income contributions from the Commonwealth by way of social security and medical benefits, others do not identify such payments.

[9.27] The comparative summary presented in Tag 11 of the ACTU composite exhibit underscores the variability of incomes and expenditures of the households of persons paid at award wage rates, and the lack of any basis to extrapolate to the low generally based on this material.

[9.28] There are also wide variations in personal spending priorities revealed by the witness materials:

Figure 9 – Variation in Witness Expenses³²

	Low	High
Housing	\$50.00	\$320.00
Housing - % of Expenditure	3%	52%
Food / Beverages	\$25.00	\$200.00
Tobacco	\$30.00	\$55.00
Clothing	\$10.00	\$50.00
Transport	\$15.00	\$149.80
Recreation	\$10.40	\$35.00
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	\$7.50	\$175.00

³² Source: ACTU Witness Statements, and ACTU Composite Exhibit, Tag 11.