

Taxing the rich

FAR from slugging the rich to help the poor, the Rudd Government's first two budgets have been kind to high-income earners. People earning \$180,000-plus will soon enjoy an income tax cut of \$41.35 a week. This adds to a \$50- a-week tax cut they received last year. The single pensioner's rise of \$32.49 a week will take their annual income to about \$16,500. Single unemployed people received no increase in their basic payment, which remains at \$11,786 a year. It is not possible to live with dignity on \$11,786 per year.

Our unemployed citizens deserve a more adequate basic income. Even amid the global economic crisis, our society has the wealth and the capacity to provide it.

Julie Edwards, chief executive, Jesuit Social Services, Richmond