

3rd December 2019

Senate Community Affairs Committee

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Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Committee Chairperson,

Clarification in Hansard re Inquiry into the adequacy of Newstart and related payments and alternative mechanisms to determine the level of income support payments in Australia.

On Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 8:30am (AEDT) I provided evidence in the capacity of both the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) as a member representative and the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc where I hold the position as CEO. The opportunity to represent both organizations was sought prior to the hearing and then clarified in my opening statement.

At the end of the hearing I referred to the Intergenerational Welfare Dependency Committee who made a recommendation to increase Newstart for single mothers. I further spoke to media reports that stated that the recommendation had been “erased”. However, I failed to make it unequivocally clear that these final remarks were solely made in the capacity and representing the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc (NCSMC). I am seeking an opportunity to clarify this in Hansard. Firstly, I did not have the endorsement to present this evidence from AWAVA, whilst it was expected from the members of the NCSMC that such comments would be made. It was NCSMC who appeared before the Intergenerational Welfare Dependency Committee and it is us who have closely followed the recommendations.

I trust that this request can be accommodated and that it does not cause any major disruption to the committee and its important deliberations.

Warm regards,

Terese Edwards

National Council for Single Mothers and their Children Inc.

Eliminate and respond to violence, hardship and inequality for single mothers and their children

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