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The opinions expressed in this letter
are not necessarily those of the City
of Fremantle.

From the office of the Mayor

Our Ref: 12092019

Contact: Rebecca Bowden
mayor@fremantle.wa.gov.au

12 September 2019

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom it may Concern

City of Fremantle Supports the Immediate Increase to Newstart Allowance

“At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 May 2018 the Council of the City of Fremantle moved the following motion:

That Council:

1. Recognise that the low rate of Newstart is exacerbating poverty and homelessness.
2. Publicly advocate in writing to the relevant federal government ministers that the Newstart Allowance be increased to allow a dignified standard of living.
3. Send copies of the letter, advocating that the Newstart Allowance be increased to allow a dignified standard of living, to the federal MP for Fremantle and to the senators for Western Australia.

At the same Ordinary Meeting of Council Councillor Wainwright submitted, and Council accepted, a petition of over 385 signatories, calling to "Increase Newstart Now" and containing the following pleas:

"To the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Fremantle

We, the undersigned request that the City of Fremantle adds its voice to calls for the Newstart Allowance to be increased. While we recognise that Newstart is a Federal issue, we believe the council has an important role in advocating on behalf of its residents who are experiencing unemployment.

There has not been a significant increase to Newstart in over 20 years, despite the cost of living continuing to rise. Recent research showed that Newstart and Commonwealth Rent Assistance are \$96 short of meeting a basic standard of living for a single person.

We want to see an immediate increase to Newstart and Commonwealth Rent Assistance to ensure a dignified standard of living.

We request that the council writes to the Federal Government Minister and other local Federal Members of Parliament within the City of Fremantle advocating for these changes to be made."

Please consider this letter to be formal acknowledgement that the Council of the City of Fremantle recognises that the current rate of Newstart Allowance is exacerbating poverty and homelessness.

The City of Fremantle Council formally add our voice to those seeking an increase to the Newstart Allowance and Commonwealth Assistance to enable those people experiencing unemployment to achieve a dignified standard of living."

Yours sincerely

Dr Brad Pettitt

Mayor