

Australian Council of Social Service

26 November 2020

Community Affairs Legislation Committee Secretariat

By email: Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretariat

Please find below our responses to the questions we took on notice at the hearing for the Inquiry into the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Extension of Coronavirus Support) Bill 2020.

1. Economists who support increasing unemployment payments:

- [RBA Governor Philip Lowe](#)
- [Chris Richardson, Deloitte Access Economics](#)
- [Nicki Hutley, Deloitte Access Economics](#)
- [Dr Shane Oliver, AMP Chief Economist](#)
- [Alan Oster, NAB Chief Economist](#)
- [Dr Brendan Rynne, KPMG](#)
- [Alan Kohler](#)
- [Trent Wiltshire, Domain](#)
- [Angela Jackson, Equity Economics](#)
- [Grattan Institute](#)
- [Melinda Cilento, CEDA](#)
- [Adam Triggs, ANU](#)
- [Jeff Borland](#)

The below economists all called for a permanent increase to JobSeeker [as part of this research](#).

- Matthew Butlin
- Saul Eslake
- Lisa Cameron
- Fabrizio Carmignani
- Lin Crase
- Kevin Davis
- Janine Dixon

- Allan Fels
- John Freebairn
- Lata Gangadharan
- Craig Emerson
- John Hewson
- Emily Lancsar
- Guay Lim
- Warwick McKibbin
- Flavio Menezes
- Margaret Nowak
- John Quiggin
- Sue Richardson
- Rana Roy
- Helen Silver
- Danielle Wood
- Garry Barrett
- Harry Bloch

2. In terms of the budget for lifting income support up to the level of the pension, Peter Whiteford estimates that the cost of this would be approximately \$17 billion, based on 2 million people receiving JobSeeker. For more information, see here:
<https://www.austaxpolicy.com/when-the-coronavirus-supplement-stops-jobseeker-needs-to-increase-by-185-a-week/>

Yours sincerely,

Charmaine Crowe

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