

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION: Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 7:11:06 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a submission regarding the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021.

The current rate is below the poverty line and completely inadequate, Particularly in the current environment of rapidly increasing rents and living costs. JobSeeker needs to be above the poverty line. It needs to be a livable amount so that JobSeekers have the means to afford necessities and invest in themselves.

ACOSS and other organisations have been recommending increases to the rate for decades. This increase is long overdue. It would also help greatly with stimulating the economy post-covid as government assistance such as JobKeeper and the Coronavirus supplement dries up and businesses continue to struggle.

Punishing jobseekers helps nobody. We know that the current payment rate is not a livable amount and only serves to further entrench and exacerbate poverty and wealth disparity.

Australia is a country with egalitarian values and the current attack on the most vulnerable is hurting Australia as a whole. JobSeekers will spend their money so that it recirculates back into the economy, helping all of us at a time that this is sorely needed.

A meaningful increase to the payment rate will also pay significant dividends in physical and mental health outcomes and prevention of crime and many health costs.

This is also simply a basic human rights issue and long overdue.

Yours sincerely,  
Shirley Williams