

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION: Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021
Date: Thursday, 25 February 2021 6:17:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

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

I strongly urge those with the relevant decision-making powers to increase the amount that is paid to people on Jobseeker and similar support programs. One only need look at the number of applicants for each job vacancy, or the number of applications for each rental property vacancy in this country, to begin to understand how difficult is for people to improve their living circumstances.

The reality is that there is not employment for everyone who wants to work in Australia. The reality is that there is not affordable accommodation for everyone who needs shelter in Australia. It is surely reasonable to support people who, through no fault of their own, find themselves struggling in the face of these challenges - and not just pay them a token amount of money that in reality perpetuates the poverty cycle and doesn't enable them to 'make ends meet' - but to actually support them.

If the government is concerned that a system of paying people a reasonable 'living wage' while they seek to improve their circumstances is a process that will be abused by some people, there are checks and balances and safeguards that can be built into any system to help prevent this. Withholding funds and refusing to help people lift themselves from poverty, in the face of a global pandemic, a housing shortage and a dearth of available jobs, is simply negligent. It is not indicative of a government that cares for the wellbeing and welfare of its most vulnerable citizens.

Please implement the necessary changes to help people to live with appropriate shelter, meaningful support, self respect and (most importantly) security in the knowledge that their government cares about them.

Yours sincerely,