

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Extension of Coronavirus Support Submission
Date: Friday, 13 November 2020 7:26:04 PM

This is the first time I have written a submission and I write it now with a sense of urgency.

Fortunately I was able to work through most of the year despite the pandemic.

However, working with international students it was only a matter of time before work ran dry.

That industry has come to a complete standstill, and realistically it will not return any time soon, it may not ever return to its former state.

So now I am a job seeker, not a choice of my own.

It is immediately apparent the impossibility of living on the current rate, let alone a further \$150 reduction.

I am constantly faced by decisions of what do I cut back on next, such as do I cut my phone from my monthly bills or my internet so I can afford the rent?

However if I cut off either it greatly limits my options to seek and find work in a modern society. And I would not even be able to afford the bus fare to use other services.

I may well need to re skill in a different industry, but will not be able to financially afford to study.

I am in my 50's and due to surgery to remove a tumour on my spinal cord, I am limited to the types of work I can do.

It's easy to see how very quickly a cycle of poverty begins and I fear that once it's entered it's a vortex with no sight of capital to provide a means of escape.

And forget about spending to help the economy. I and millions of others, will no longer be able to support any businesses.

I used to buy a coffee every morning from the local cafe, and now suddenly that has become a completely unaffordable luxury, so has getting a haircut at my local salon.

I will need to move, as the rent will quickly become unaffordable.

The average rent in my area and anywhere in the vicinity is over \$350 easily.

The base rate of benefits + rent assistance doesn't even cover the average rent.

I will be forced to move much further away, further limiting work opportunities, with no internet or phone.

It's so easy to see the start how a downward spiral into poverty begins.

It's well past time to have a reality check about the rate.

If the country can afford to pay the Prime Minister one of the highest salaries, then surely it can afford to raise the rate not just now but for good?

Otherwise the consequences for society will be dire and no one will be immune from its effects.

No more reductions.

Kind regards