

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION: Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021
Date: Sunday, 28 February 2021 1:13:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

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

Hi my name is [REDACTED] I am 61 year old man and I live in a private rental in [REDACTED] Western Australia. As I was homeless and unemployed in 2003-4 I made a promise to myself that that situation would never happen again. Therefore at the age of 45 I enrolled at University and gained a BA in Community Development and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Counselling whilst stacking shelves in a supermarket. I have not worked since 2015 due to mental and physical health issues which due to my situation never get any better!

I still will not allow myself to become homeless again so basically the maximum meals I have per day are two and some-days one so that I ensure my rent and utility bills are paid. I rarely see my son as 1) I cannot afford the public transport and 2) I struggle with severe anxiety when I leave my immediate area . Some-days it feels like I am having a heart attack when I receive an unexpected bill and know that I will struggle to pay it on time. Then it is tears as I know that I will then have to go to my local St Vinnies to beg them to cover the payment of the bill and my anxiety goes sky high.

I cannot afford all of my medications without missing meals which then exacerbates my situation as I need to take certain medications with food! I know that at the present time I need to see a physiotherapist however I am only entitled to 3 or 4 sessions per year with Medicare and Jobseeker payments are certainly not enough for me to see a physiotherapist privately. I finally after 4 years on the waiting list saw a Rheumatologist and will see him again in the future for test results. I am on a waiting lists to see an orthopaedic specialist (so far waiting over 4 years) and also an urology specialist as my GP is worried about my Prostate test results however I have no idea when I will see said specialists and again I cannot afford to see private specialist. I have previously allowed a wisdom tooth to rot away as I could not afford the cost of dental treatment at the public dental clinic and at present I need 2 root canal treatments a couple of fillings and a tooth pulled out and again I cannot afford to go.

My life will be severely impacted by the drop in the Jobseeker to \$44.00 per day as my outgoings on rent and utilities (I live in one of the cheapest rentals in my area) are around \$40.00 per day which will leave me with \$4.00 to buy Food, Medications, Clothing, Public Transport to appointments etc.

Personally I feel that the rate of Jobseeker should at the very least stay at its current rate and in the future be raised to match the DSP rate as we all need the same things in our lives, Food, Roof, Medications and the ability to see the dentist without having to starve. And also to occasionally be able to buy clothing, bedding, white goods etc

Yours sincerely,