

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

To whom it may concern,

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

I'm currently receiving Austudy as I complete a bachelor of science degree. First off, I'm at a loss as to why Austudy is less than jobseeker. This makes no sense seeing as Austudy is for over 25's, I study full time and would expect to be able to live off of the rate as I'm not required to work aswell as study.

Secondly I really appreciate the fact that the covid supplement was originally set at \$550 a fortnight. It was a tremendous help, I caught up with my bills and was able to have my wisdom teeth removed using it. I felt the pressure when it dropped down to \$250 a fortnight, but I was able to manage. Now at \$150 a fortnight I currently have negative -\$2.20 in my account until I get payed again next Tuesday.

I have been stressing for the last few months, checking the news daily to see if the current government would announce a permanent rise to jobseeker/Austudy. Sadly on Tuesday I heard the news of a rise of \$50, this is devastating. All I ask is a fair rate be applied to jobseeker and please raise Austudy to the same level. \$50 a fortnight is no where near enough, the argument of keeping incentive to find work is invalid. Clearly at \$550 extra a fortnight thousands still managed to look for and secure work. Also being on austudy I do not need any incentive to find work, so why am I having to live off of \$296 a week?

Please put pressure on the coalition and do not allow them to get away with this cruel joke of a raise. We all deserve better than this.

Yours sincerely,