

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Inquiry Submission: Extension of Coronavirus Support Bill 2020
Date: Sunday, 15 November 2020 12:14:10 PM

Hello. My name is [REDACTED], I am writing in support of the inquiry into the extension of the Coronavirus Support Bill 2020.

I live in [REDACTED] South Australia. Prior to COVID-19 I had been working full time as a personal assistant to the ceo. 1 week before covid changed everyone's lives I had been made redundant, I applied for centrelink and had to wait 6 weeks. In this time the small payout was exhausted from mortgage and car payments. When the Coronavirus supplement was announced, myself and many other Australians sighed in relief, personally I was able to finally keep up with repayments and stay STABLE both financially and mentally without worry of debt, unfortunately for me and others I know we continued to struggle to find employment, this was still the case until 3 weeks ago I was only able to obtain casual employment, 15 hours a week, which leaves me with literally no money for food, except with the help of the current \$250 supplement, previously with the additional \$550 supplement life was good I was able to pay bills AND purchase food.

With the current cuts about to happen come December, I am terrified how I will afford food on a casual, 15 hour week wage with no additional assistance from centrelink. To be honest it feels like it's actually punishing those that are trying to work, or are struggling mentally to work full time(as I have experienced in the past), I also feel that no one is considering that only casual and short term employment seems to be the norm, particularly those, like myself, that aren't located in big cities. People in smaller towns and communities need to be considered for a change, nothing has ever benefited as like the coronavirus supplement has, FINALLY I was able to get tyres changed and car serviced to keep me on the road and EMPLOYED regardless that it is casual work.

To conclude, I hope my lived experience and struggle with employment and services Australia coronavirus supplement in a trying time is somewhat a glimmer of light in this Inquiry that there is a desperate need to raise the allowance, the additional \$550 was JUST enough for people to function, working or not, it is a top up working people need that are on low or casual wages. Otherwise we are stuck reporting for no reason or benefit at all when it goes back to a pathetic \$40 a day benefit.

Please take this as a lived experience of a struggling individual that wants to work. I am not alone with this view, the thousands of angry people flooding services Australia social media page is alarming and what's more alarming is that it's falling upon deaf ears. If we are proud to be Australian we should be assisting each other, lifting each other up, not cut them off of a benefit that was actually helpful to them and to give them enough money to fix up cars, clothing or shoes leading to employment. Please listen to your Australian people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,