

26 November 2020

Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Apolline Kohen -Acting Committee Secretary
Australian Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Extension of Coronavirus Support) Bill 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Senate Committee hearing on Wednesday, 25 November 2020.

We take this opportunity to provide supplementary information regarding the importance of the level of the Coronavirus Supplement being returned to the initial rate, and being made permanent:

- Women and children living in family violence are at greater risk of being forced to stay in harmful relationships when they lack sufficient income to enable them to move into secure housing. An adequate supplementation of benefits, especially Jobseeker, will help protect people harmed by family violence.
- People and families are at significantly increased risk of using high interest short-term lenders and other forms of unaffordable debt as a consequence of desperation when the Supplement is below the poverty line.
- People in hardship where they have the option and no alternative will continue to draw down on their superannuation, risking the depletion of any long-term savings.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sandy Ross
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Financial Counselling Victoria