

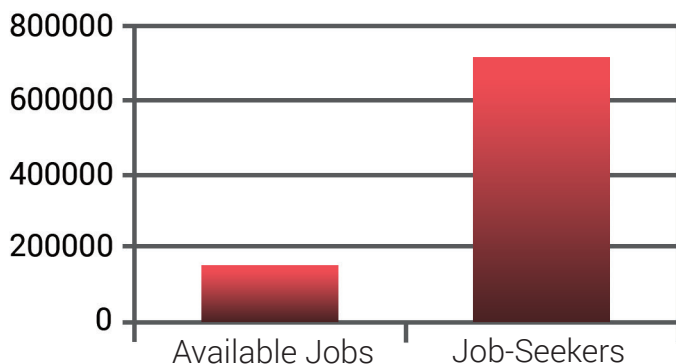
THERE ARE NO EXCUSES

GET INVOLVED

Some say Centrelink payments have to stay low so people have an “incentive” to find work. If we raise payments, no one will work. This is false. Even if we raise payments, they will still be much lower than wages.

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH JOBS

There is roughly five job-seekers for every job. In early 2014 there were 146,000 job vacancies but 717,000 unemployed people. When you include underemployed people, it is one job for every ten job-seekers.



There are many who are unable to work much because of family, health, or personal reasons. They need an adequate safety-net that will protect them over the long-term.

There is only one way to ensure those on income support receive adequate payments: community pressure. Only when we cannot be ignored can we win.

Join the **Anti-Poverty Network SA** as we fight for a fair, generous, non-judgemental welfare system. One person can make a difference!!

Phone: 0411 587 663

E-mail: antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com

Facebook Group:

facebook.com/groups/antipovertynetworksa

Facebook Page:

facebook.com/antipovertynetworksa

LEARN MORE

Websites

- Australian Council of Social Service:
www.acoss.org.au
- National Council for Single Mothers and their Children:
www.ncsmc.org.au

Facebook

- Australian Welfare News:
facebook.com/australianwelfarenews
- Parenting Payment For Parents – Not Newstart:
facebook.com/NoNewstart4Families

ONE BIG RAISE

TIME TO END POVERTY FOR CENTRELINK CLIENTS

CENTRELINK PAYMENTS ARE TOO LOW

Australia is one of the richest countries on earth – yet one in seven people and one in six children live in poverty.

OUR WELFARE SYSTEM CREATES POVERTY

Job-seekers, sole parents, students, and Age and Disability Pensioners are forced to survive on payments that are below the poverty-line.

THIS MUST END.

40 percent of Centrelink clients live below the poverty-line, which is \$400 per week for single adults. This figure includes:

- 55 percent of those on Newstart Allowance
- 47 percent of those on Parenting Payment
- 48 percent of those on Disability Pension
- 33 percent of sole parents
- 65 percent of students
- 16 percent of Age Pensioners

THOSE ON NEWSTART ARE STRUGGLING

WE CAN AFFORD TO RAISE CENTRELINK PAYMENTS

SUPPORT

Newstart, at \$255 per week, is \$145 per week below the poverty-line.

Even with the maximum rate of Rent Assistance, job-seekers are still \$97 per week below the poverty-line.

Newstart is only 18 percent of the average wage, meaning that when people lose their jobs, their incomes plummet.

40 percent of Newstart recipients cannot afford to pay their bills on time or see a dentist. 46 percent of recipients can only afford second-hand clothes most of the time.

More than half cannot afford to raise \$2,000 in the event of an emergency.

Newstart has not been raised in real terms in 20 years – it is the lowest unemployment payment in the developed world.

Newstart is now so low even business groups think it should be raised.

They argue that it stops people from properly searching for work (cannot afford car/petrol, internet, phone, etc.).

The money exists. It is a question of priorities.

We do not spend much on welfare payments. Australia spends only 6.9 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) on payments.

We spend 3.5 percent on Age Pensions, 2.5 percent on family payments, and 0.5 percent on unemployment benefits. **We spend less on welfare than other wealthy nations.**

Raising payments – not only for job-seekers but for students, sole-parents, pensioners, and others – would cost billions of dollars.

But we could do this (and have plenty left over to spend) if:

- We reduced subsidies to the very profitable fossil fuels industry
- We increased taxes on the mining sector
- We ensured corporations paid the required amount of company tax instead of avoiding their obligations
- We ended superannuation tax concessions that mostly go to the already very well-off

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO ADEQUATE INCOME

It is our safety-net for when things go wrong in our lives or in the lives of our loved ones.

Many of us rely on government payments at some point in our lives.

We should not feel ashamed or humiliated if we have to rely on welfare, because we have no other choice.

The welfare system is like the healthcare system. Access should be based on need. It is a right, not charity.

If you need support, you should receive it, without having to deal with any obstacles or hurdles

Income support should provide us with an adequate standard of living. It should not force us into a gruelling, isolating existence.

It is part of living in a civilised community. It something that we had to fight for to achieve, over a long, long time.

