



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.

Job-seekers, sole parents, students, and Age and Disability Pensioners are forced to struggle on payments too low for people to have decent quality of life.

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 Disability Pensioners
- 33 percent of sole parents
- 65 percent of students
- 16 percent of Age Pensioners

WE CAN AFFORD TO RAISE CENTRELINK PAYMENTS

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.**

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO INCOME SUPPORT

It is our safety-net for when things go wrong for us or our loved ones. Most of us rely on 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.

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH JOBS

People are unemployed because there are not enough jobs to go around, not because they get comfortable on payments.

There are five job-seekers for every job. Early last year there were 146,000 vacancies but 717,000 unemployed people. When you include the underemployed: one job for every ten job-seekers.

GET INVOLVED

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

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