



# 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.

**36 percent of Centrelink clients live below the poverty-line**, which is \$427 per week for single adults. This figure includes:

- 55 percent of Newstart Allowance recipients
- 52 percent of Parenting Payment recipients
- 36 percent of Disability Pensioners
- 24 percent of Carers Payment recipients
- 14 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 roughly **170,000 job vacancies**, nationwide. Those competing for that small number of vacancies include around **710,000 unemployed** people, and **1.1 million underemployed**, those who are working but who are looking for more work. The number of job-seekers totals **1.8 million**, which equates to **one job for every 11 job-seekers**.

When one includes the **'hidden unemployed'** – those not considered part of the workforce, but who are also searching (1.3 million) – the number of job-seekers sky-rockets to 3.1 million: **1 job for every 17 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.

**Phone:** 0411 587 663

**E-mail:** [AntiPovertyNetwork.sa@gmail.com](mailto:AntiPovertyNetwork.sa@gmail.com)