

What we need to win

A permanent and adequate increase to JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and other income support payments that ensures everyone can cover the basics they need, including housing.

Why we need a permanent and adequate increase

We must ensure everyone without paid work has enough to cover the basics. Not only does this help people, it is one of the best ways to get us through the economic crisis.

Right now, more than 1.6 million people in Australia receive JobSeeker Payment.¹ This is expected to rise to over 2 million people by September 2020.

There is also a quarter of a million young people receiving Youth Allowance.

We know there will be sustained, high rates of unemployment. We cannot go back to the old Newstart rate of \$40 a day that left people struggling to survive. This is not enough to live, let alone to cover the basics.

As we rebuild after the crisis, we cannot turn our backs on those who at risk of being left behind.

We need to Raise the Rate for Good so that everyone has enough to cover the basics of life, like a roof over one's head and food on the table.

How you can help

You are the experts on what is happening in your local community or in your area of work. We need you to tell the Federal Government why we need a permanent and adequate increase to JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and other income support payments.

- **Seek a meeting** with your local Federal Member of Parliament (MP) and tell them how the new rates of income support (with the Coronavirus Supplement) have helped people you work with cover the cost of the basics.
- Even better, **bring someone receiving these payments to the meeting with you**, so they can share their story directly with your local MP.
- Write to your local MP as well as **Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston** to share information like:

¹ DSS (2020) <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/jobseeker-payment-and-youth-allowance-recipients-monthly-profile>

- Changes in demand because of the Coronavirus Supplement (for example, changes in demand for emergency relief, financial counselling, and other assistance because of higher income support).
 - Improvements to the health and wellbeing of people you work with resulting from the Coronavirus Supplement.
 - How increased payments support your organisation to do what you do best: provide essential services to our community.
- **Invite your members, staff and volunteers to take action:** sign up to the Raise the Rate for Good campaign at www.raisetherate.org.au and like the Raise the Rate Facebook page: facebook.com/raisetherate
 - Encourage them to also seek a meeting or write to their local Federal MP.
- **Promote the Raise the Rate Facebook page and website.** By promoting the campaign you are helping us to reach and connect with new audiences who can support the campaign. We also love promoting the work of our supporters, so please contact us with photos and stories of how you are taking part of Raise the Rate For Good. Share campaign material on social media and through your networks.
 - Facebook: [@raisetherate](https://facebook.com/raisetherate)
 - Website: raisetherate.org.au
 - Get involved in the National Day of Action on July 14. We are calling on organisations to **sign an open statement of support**. This statement will address the need for a permanent and adequate increase. You can also promote the National Day of Action through your organisational communication channels.
 - Online statement: raisetherate.org.au

What a permanent increase looks like:

1. A substantial, permanent, increase to the base rate of Jobseeker, Youth Allowance and other income support payments.
2. Additional supplements to those most in need, including low-income tenants, people with disability, people with illness, and single parents.
3. An increase to the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) of 50%.
4. Ensure all payments are indexed to wage growth as well as prices, to keep up with community living standards.

Contact us:

You can get in touch with the campaign team, Pas and Alyssa at: raisetherate@acoss.org.au