

# ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## MEDIA RELEASE: Cruel, Insulting: The Government's JobSeeker Cut Traps Millions Of People Into Deep Poverty

Tuesday February 23, 2021

For immediate release

The Government's JobSeeker announcement today is a cruel, insulting decision that traps millions of people into deep poverty.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Aidan Jarvis said:

*"This decision - a \$3.57 a day (\$25 a week) raise - is not only pathetic, but actually represents a cut from an already-inadequate rate.*

*This so-called raise is \$50 a week less than what people are receiving right now. What people are receiving right now (\$50 a day, including the reduced COVID supplement) is already causing people immense financial stress, and harming people's health. People are already skipping meals and skipping medicines.*

*This cut, to \$43.58 a day, would keep people locked in a severe, constant struggle to keep a roof over their head and put food on the table.*

*Our position, informed by our members on JobSeeker, people who the Government has ignored and mocked with this embarrassing announcement, has long been that JobSeeker should return above the poverty-line, to the COVID rate of \$80 a day (\$550 a week).*

*The COVID rate allowed people to pay their rent, with income left for food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and health expenses like medications and specialists.*

*We also note the increased 'Mutual Obligation' requirements. Forcing job-seekers to jump through more and more hoops is a punitive distraction from the Government's failure to create enough jobs to go around. Forcing people to search for more jobs does nothing to address the fact that there is a shortfall*

*of over 1 million jobs.*

*We will continue campaigning until people on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and other payments - indeed, till all Australians - are lifted above the poverty-line. "*

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