

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE: 'Back To Struggle Street' - Survey Of 282 People On JobSeeker Highlights Widespread Suffering After Latest Cuts

For Immediate Release

Anti-Poverty Network SA has released '[**Back To Struggle Street**](#)', which details the harrowing findings of a survey of 282 people on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and Parenting Payment, highlighting widespread levels of deprivation since the cruel, \$50 a week cut to incomes in early April.

The results indicate that after April's cut, the third cut to JobSeeker and related payments since the end of last September, we have returned to the grim, pre-COVID days of people skipping meals, skipping medicines, and having virtually nothing leftover after paying their rent.

Major findings:

- Just over half of people (53.4%) have \$7 a day or less after paying rent
- 3/4 (77.4%) of people said that they have now been skipping meals; alarmingly, 1/4 (23.8%) said they have been skipping at least 1 meal a day
- 9 in 10 (89.7%) people are now purchasing much less fruit and vegetables
- 2/3 (68.5%) of people said the latest JobSeeker cuts will have either a 'significant' or 'extreme' impact on their ability to cover medical expenses
- 8 in 10 (78.6%) people said the lowering of JobSeeker will have either a 'significant' or 'extreme' impact on their mental health

- 8 in 10 (80.9%) people are avoiding using heating
- 4 in 10 people on student payments said the cuts would either have a 'massive effect' on their studies (that they will probably have to withdraw or postpone their studies), or that it will be 'much harder' to cover studying costs

"I'm back to eating toast instead of balanced meals. My petrol tank is empty. My daughter needs a winter school uniform but I have to pay rent, water and electricity." - Roberta, sole parent on JobSeeker.

"Since the end of September, people on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and Parenting Payment have lost \$250 a week, in three brutal cuts. JobSeeker has fallen from \$80 a day (\$550 a week) to \$44 a day (\$310 a week)", Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Tom Wood said.

"If \$80 a day was a dignified, adequate income in 2020, then it is certainly *still* a dignified, adequate income. People's living costs have not dramatically dropped. In fact, our housing market has become more unaffordable than ever before.

And we still live in a highly uncertain, unstable world, where the impacts of the pandemic on our economy and our labour market are far from over.

JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and other Allowances must be returned to the 2020 rate of \$80 a day, to ensure every person in this country is able to meet their needs and live with dignity."

Full Link To Survey Report: tinyurl.com/385by687

Further Info: info@apnsa.org or 0434 045 805 or 0402 681 352