

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA ALERT

19/04/24

For Immediate Release

JobSeekers, Supporters, Visit Amanda Rishworth's Office To Call For Action On JobSeeker Rate

What: JobSeekers and supporters will be visiting and rallying outside the office of Social Services Minister, Amanda Rishworth, to call for urgent action on the low rate of JobSeeker.

When: **Friday April 19, 1pm.**

Where: **Office of Amanda Rishworth MP, 232 Main South Road, Morphett Vale.**

Media Opportunities: People on JobSeeker/Centrelink payments available for interviews; signs/props (packets of \$1 pasta, to symbolise the paltry 97-cents-a-day JobSeeker indexation in March).

At the end of a national Week of Action on JobSeeker that saw Labor MPs across the country targeted with e-mails, phone calls, and face-to-face visits, JobSeekers and supporters will be visiting and rallying outside the office of Social Services Minister, Amanda Rishworth, to call for urgent action on the low rate of JobSeeker and other Centrelink payments in the May Federal Budget.

Brendan Folwell, Anti-Poverty Network SA: *“Almost two years ago, the Albanese government was elected on a promise to ‘Leave No One Behind’, but people on JobSeeker have been forgotten.*

JobSeeker, at only \$54-a-day – \$375-a-week – is still over \$200-a-week below the poverty-line. The Albanese government is dreaming, if it thinks its work is done: it must raise JobSeeker and other payments above the poverty-line. This, and a massive increase to public housing, will show Labor is serious about ‘Leaving No One Behind’.”

Catherine Caine, Australian Unemployed Workers' Union: *“Since the last Budget’s chaotic display, we have seen almost nothing of the Minister. Amanda Rishworth has remained hidden, shying away from the poverty crisis and offering no plan to meaningfully help those in poverty. This is an issue that needs a real solution. So where is the Minister’s plan?”*

Kristin O'Connell, Antipoverty Centre: *“The welfare system is killing people. Deepening poverty, punitive “mutual” obligations, Centrelink processing times and baseless so-called debts are destroying lives at the same time we are squeezed by landlords and cost of living hikes. A budget that leaves people in poverty is not a responsible budget. The fastest and most effective thing the government can do to support the people who need it most is immediately increase Centrelink payments above the poverty-line and stop “mutual” obligations.”*

For further info, and to speak to people on JobSeeker: Brendan Folwell, Anti-Poverty Network SA (0428 741 601); David Winderlich, Anti-Poverty Network SA (0401 380 782); Kristin O'Connell, Antipoverty Centre (0413 261 362); Catherine Caine, Australian Unemployed Workers' Union (0431 869 469).