



CARING FOR PEOPLE ADDRESSING POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

The Greens' plan for increasing Newstart and reversing single parent cuts

The Greens have the guts to be the voice of Australia's poorest families. Our plan for a caring Australia puts the needs of people in poverty ahead of billionaire mining companies.

> OUR PLAN: CARING FOR PEOPLE

A caring society protects people and their families from falling into poverty. The Greens plan to raise Newstart and effectively reverse the impact of the cuts to Parenting Payment will reduce the pressure on our most vulnerable families. Our fully costed plan includes:

- **A \$50 per week increase to the single rate of Newstart and the Youth Allowance single living away from home rate;**
- **Better indexation of all allowance payments** that reflects the changes to the cost of living for these households;
- **Additional \$40 per week supplement for all single parents on Newstart**, which together with the \$50 increase to Newstart reverses the impact of the parenting payment cuts and will immediately help lift single parents out of poverty;
- **A higher income free threshold for single parents** that allows them to earn the same as they did on Parenting Payment Single; and
- **Better job services for everyone that help people into suitable, secure work and an enforceable right to ask for flexible working conditions, for single parents and carers.**

> A FULLY COSTED SOLUTION: READY TO BE IMPLEMENTED

The Parliamentary Budget Office has costed our plan at \$9.2b over the forward estimates. Increasing Newstart and Youth Allowance and providing fairer indexation will cost \$8.2 billion; helping single parents out of poverty an extra \$1 billion.

A fairer mining tax would more than pay for these measures.

Our plan would improve the lives of our most vulnerable families. We have two Private Senators Bills ready to make this vision of a more caring Australia a reality.

> \$17 A DAY ISN'T ENOUGH TO LIVE ON

Newstart recipients are trying to survive on a base rate of less than \$250 a week. This is more than \$130 below the poverty line. After rent, most Newstart recipients have less than \$17 a day to pay for everything else in their life – which almost certainly guarantees they'll end up in poverty.

When people are forced into poverty, they find it impossible to maintain the basics. They are less likely to find work when they can't afford to pay their rent and buy food, and when things like a car or a mobile phone are an unaffordable luxury.

> STANDING UP FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES UNDER PRESSURE

Since 2006, when John Howard first began cutting single parent payments, life has just become harder for people who are looking for work or caring for their children by themselves.

Under Labor, the situation has worsened, with the Labor government dumping single parents that had been protected from John Howard's cuts onto a significantly lower payment on 1 January 2013. They tried to justify the policy as being about getting single parents into work – despite that fact that half of the single parents affected were already working.

The Labor party has so far taken more money from single parents by cutting their payments than from taxing billionaire mining companies. If they cared about poverty, they would help people into secure work rather than leaving them on such inadequate payments. Tony Abbott won't make life any easier either. In fact he'll make payments harder to access.

Both parties have now turned their backs on people. We could protect people from poverty by standing up against greed instead of punishing vulnerable families.