

PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT RAISING NEWSTART

Dr Ken Henry
National Australia Bank, 2018

“There remain real questions about the adequacy of the unemployment benefit.”

Rebecca, receives Newstart, Queensland, 2018

“I am trying to survive on Newstart with 2 children one of whom has autism. With medical expenses, rising cost of utilities, food, car costs, school fees, school uniforms and supplies, general living expenses. My children don't deserve to live in poverty. My child attends school less than 2 hours per day which makes it impossible for me to work.”

John Howard
OM, AC, former PM, 2018

“I was in favour of freezing [Newstart] but I think the freeze has probably gone on too long.”

Professor Peter Saunders
UNSW, 2017

“While the minimum wage may be adequate for some low-paid workers, this is clearly not the case for Newstart Allowance, which is woefully inadequate. An increase well in excess of \$50 per week is urgently needed.”

Cassandra,
Victoria, 2018

“I'm a student, I have a disability and can't currently work. The appallingly low rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance has kept me in a poverty trap for the past 5 years. I don't know if I'll ever be able to catch up to my peers now in terms of secure housing, financial stability or good health.”

Sally McManus
ACTU, 2018

“I think that it is much better to give money to Newstart, to make sure that people aren't falling off a cliff if they fall out of employment, than give it to big business through corporate tax cuts.”

Chris Richardson
Deloitte Access Economics, 2018

“What Australia has failed to do with unemployment benefits for virtually a quarter of a century now is verging on a national embarrassment.”

Heather Ridout AO
Australian Super, 2018

“There are single people out there on their own who don't get enough support from government and they are living in poverty.”

Jennifer Westacott
Business Council of Australia, 2017

“We need a robust and targeted welfare safety net that ensures displaced workers don't fall into poverty while finding their feet. This could include increasing the inadequate Newstart allowance.”

Brendan Rynne
KPMG Chief Economist, 2016

“The low level of Newstart is actually forming a barrier to employment, as it is insufficient to allow unemployed people to actively conduct job search.”

**John Hewson
AM, 2017**

“Genuine reform must include a willingness to increase the base Newstart and pension benefits to at least an accepted poverty line.”

**Dr Benjamin Law
Writer, 2018**

“As someone who experienced first-hand the necessity of relying on the dole in my 20s, I know how demoralising the experience is. Not only is there stigma towards using welfare, but it is extremely difficult to access. And when you get it, there’s not nearly enough to cover basic living expenses while you attend to seeking work. It’s only because of the dole I can contribute now. Raise the rate.”

**Lloyd
ACT, 2018**

“Every single human being has a right to the necessities of life, and to dignity and equality. We are a wealthy country, a first world country. Poverty and hopelessness are unacceptable. Raise the rate and don’t give us a tax cut.”

**Jane Caro
2018**

“No one in Australia should be unable to pay rent, buy food or pay the electricity bill.”

**Christopher
Victoria, 2018**

“Nowhere sufficient for anyone to live on. We, as pensioners are always subsidising our granddaughter’s allowance to enable her to purchase petrol to get to University and medication, etc. She doesn’t have enough to pay us any board either, so we also have to carry this cost too.”

**Brett
NSW, 2018**

“I lost my previous job and was on Newstart for three months until I found my current job. Newstart, after rent alone being paid, left me with \$80 per fortnight to cover food and other bills. For three months I could only afford one meal per day, and couldn’t pay my bills. I was about to have my power and mobile phone cut off, I was underweight and malnourished when I finally found my current job.”