



18 March 2025

Dear federal representatives

On behalf of Australian Quakers I write to draw your attention to the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee's (EIAC) 2025 Report, and strongly encourage your support of key recommendations to improve JobSeeker and related payments.

The key recommendations call on the Government to:

- Substantially increase the base rates of JobSeeker and related working age payments;
- Commit to a timeframe for full increases in JobSeeker and related payments; and
- Improve indexation arrangements for working age payments with regular reviews and monitoring of how the payments are – or are not, keeping pace with community living standards including wages.

Research undertaken by the University of New South Wales and Mandala Partners, used in the EIAC Report, revealed that among Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations, Australia is among the lowest ranked for the adequacy of our out of work payments. Findings also showed that raising the JobSeeker Payment would not only improve the lives of vulnerable Australians, but also have positive effects for our national finances and economy.

Indeed, the national benefits would not be limited to the economy. Regular employment improves mental health, increases productivity, reduces the need for physical and mental health services and reduces levels of contact with the criminal justice system.

The EIAC report includes honest and insightful quotes from people who are actually trying to survive on JobSeeker and related payments. Charlotte, for example, sounds like any Australian who wants to be part of the workforce and provide for her child: '...I think it's really good for my child and for me and for everybody, if I am working and earning like I don't want to be somebody who's dependent on payments for the rest of my life'.

Increasing JobSeeker and related payments is not just about supporting one sector of the population. It's about building Australia's resilience as a secure, socially cohesive society with a stable economy – critical in today's volatile world.

Please consider what you can do to assist the Government to:

- meet the recommendations in the EIAC Report, particularly around JobSeeker and related payments; and
- assure that the EIAC's recommendations are not set aside following the upcoming Federal elections.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

In peace

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Henry".

Bruce Henry
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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