

18 January 2015

Dear Minister,

Making ends meet as a sole parent is a constant source of concern and anxiety not just for the parent but also for kids.

As a member of the Australian community, I call on you, as a matter of urgency, to increase support for sole parents.

Tonight, some sole parents won't be able to provide their children with a warm meal. Some will be grateful for the roof over their head, while others won't have one.

I'm calling on you to take prompt action on this issue by following The Parenthood's three point plan (first 3 points) and seriously considering the additional points I have included at numbers 4 to 10:

1. Increase the Newstart support payment by a minimum of \$50 / week.
2. Increase earning capacity for sole parents on Newstart with children over eight.
3. Index current welfare payments to movements in average earnings as well as the CPI.
4. Increase the schoolkids bonus for single parents. eg School resource fees \$220 plus laptop fees \$90 = \$310, Add school stationery, school shoes, school uniforms.
5. Put a stop to further disadvantage - cease reduction of Family Payments just because the parent receives child support.
6. Bring back dental care for parents.
7. Increase payments to the parent for children over 16 years of age living at home.
8. Bring Social Security legislation into alignment with Child Support Act and Family Law Act on the dependency age.
9. Increase the number of consultations subsidized under the Mental Health Care Plan. Increase the subsidy to meet the rate of the psychologist.
10. Cease seeking financial and budgetary gain from the disadvantaged and welfare sector. Seek to implement more strict regulation, policing and penalizing of the financial services industry for accountability and Australian economic stability.

In this regard refer to the Senate Inquiry into the Performance of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission of 2013/2014 from which was recommended a Royal Commission and which was denied.

Decline of mental well being in society has been significantly contributed to by the Australian Government Social Welfare System.

Australian Social Security and Justice Governance is putting the public at risk with little to no remedy.

Respectfully
Dianne Mead

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