

I am a young resident of Salisbury, I moved here with my girlfriend when I was 20 and as I'm writing to you, I'm 23 years old. Before then, I lived in the Playford area all my life. Therefore, it may come to no surprise to you that I'm well accustomed to not only living in areas with high unemployment, but also, to being unemployed myself.

I write knowing there is a chance you may be getting a number of emails from people such as myself, but hoping the more emails you get, the more interested you might become in the movement to increase the Newstart allowance.

Allow me to preface my attempt at persuasion why this is a good idea by stating I am well aware that local councils do not have the power to raise the allowance. However, recently there have been some councils across Australia making statements challenging the status quo on topics of social justice.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield here in SA of course almost unanimously agreed to voice their support for an increase in the Newstart allowance recently. And even more recently, the cities Yarra and Darebin in Victoria have stood up against the current date of Australia Day - and regardless of whether you agree or not, it's a brave and courageous thing for local councils to take a stand on behalf of what they *and* their citizens believe.

By the way - if you have a tendency to cringe at the use of the words 'social justice' - don't worry, I do too. I don't believe my opinion is extreme. I believe it is centred, leveled, fair, and best for all Australian communities and Australia overall.

An increase to the Newstart payment is already necessary for many people to be able to eat three meals a day. I have acquaintances who have trouble budgeting past their bills, and have to skip meals. *I myself* have been in the situation of deciding to skip dinner so I can afford something else. We can talk about the costs of rent and electricity, which seem to rise multiple times a year as Newstart stays stagnant, but the biggest concern for me is that there are people in our communities who struggle to eat meals. Not struggle to eat nutritiously (which is a problem, of course) but simply struggle to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There is an abundance of reasons as to why the Newstart allowance should be increased, and with each day that passes, the situation gets worse. This is not an emergency in the public eye, but it *is an increasingly urgent matter*.

To have support of local government, especially in areas like Salisbury (with high unemployment and visual cohesive diversity), can do wonders to push for real equality in a

time where the poor are purposefully misrepresented in the media, and used as a political tool as opposed to treated like humans. If you've read this far, thank you very much. As I said, the reasons to support an increase are abundant. I would be more than glad to dedicate any time of any day to discuss these important matters should you be interested. The least I could personally ask is an opportunity for discussion.

Faithfully,

Aidan