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SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ABBOTT BUDGET ABANDONS YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING FOR WORK**

In his Budget of twisted priorities, Tony Abbott is telling young people: *You're on your own.*

That's the message the Abbott Government has sent young Australians looking for work with its savage cut of \$1.2 billion to income support for people under 30.

From 1 January next year, people under 30 who need Newstart and Youth Allowance will be forced to wait six months before receiving any support. What will they live on if they can't find a job?

And young people under 24 will be shifted from Newstart onto the lower Youth Allowance, making them \$48 a week worse off.

Shadow Minister for Families and Payments Jenny Macklin said the Government was forcing young people into a life of poverty at the very time that they need support the most.

"Labor is committed to ensuring young people find work through support, training, work experience and incentives. Cutting their income support will not help them get into work or education or training," Ms Macklin said.

"The Prime Minister has completely deserted young Australians looking for work".

Shadow Employment and Workforce Participation Minister Brendan O'Connor said already vulnerable young people will be hit hardest by this Budget.

"This punitive Budget risks the yield of a new generation of young people stuck in a vicious poverty cycle," Mr O'Connor said.

"As a result of the Government's twisted priorities, this Budget will see an unemployed 24-year-old will lose almost \$2500 a year.

"By going after low income earners, Tony Abbott has launched a spiteful attack on people who can least afford more hip pocket pain."

Shadow Employment Services Minister Julie Collins said under the Abbott Government's Budget young, low income earners to bear the brunt, with support for low income earners maliciously slashed and skills and training hit by a \$500 million cut.

"This Budget reveals the Government's 'spreading the pain' mantra to be a complete sham," Ms Collins said.

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