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MEDIA RELEASE

**LABOR CALLS ON CROSSBENCH TO RULE OUT SUPPORT FOR ABBOTT'S
ATTACK ON YOUNG JOB SEEKERS**

Labor is calling on crossbench senators to rule out doing any deal with Tony Abbott that forces young people to go without any income support while they look for work.

Kevin Andrews confirmed on [ABC radio](#) last night that is he is in negotiations with the crossbench over legislation which forces young job seekers to go six months at a time without any support at all.

Any deal that forces our young people to look for work without any support at all - be it for six months or one - will risk plunging them into poverty at the very time that they need support the most.

[ABS statistics](#) show that Australia's youth unemployment rate is at its highest levels since 2001. A recent report from the [Brotherhood of St Laurence](#) shows there are now more than a quarter of a million young Australians aged 15-24 who cannot find work.

Young Australians struggling to find work need support, not punishment.

Labor stands with concerned community leaders against this draconian plan.

"On the back of these numbers, it would be a misguided government that persisted in denying income support to some jobseekers under 30 for any period of time."

MAREE O'HALLORAN, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS NETWORK, THE AUSTRALIAN, 5 SEPTEMBER 2014

There's no doubt vulnerable young people are amongst the hardest hit by Tony Abbott's Budget of lies.

The same legislation also includes a plan to shift young people under 24 from Newstart onto the lower Youth Allowance, leaving them \$48 a week worse off.

Tony Abbott is consigning a generation of young people to a vicious cycle of poverty. And Labor will fight it every step of the way.

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