



MEDIA RELEASE

JENNY MACKLIN MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FAMILIES & PAYMENTS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DISABILITY REFORM
ACTING SHADOW MINISTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

BRENDAN O'CONNOR MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND
WORKPLACE RELATIONS

ABBOTT TO LEAVE 54,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WITH NOTHING TO LIVE ON

Senate Estimates today confirmed that 54,000 young jobseekers under 25 will be forced to live on nothing for one month under the Abbott Government's latest attack on young Australians.

The Department also confirmed that jobseekers who don't meet their job search target in the first month will have to wait another month before being able to access income support.

This is a cruel measure that has the potential to confine young people to an endless cycle of no income support at all, pushing many young jobseekers into poverty.

The Abbott Government's second Budget is just as unfair as the last when it comes to young Australians.

Unemployment is forecast to peak at 6.5 per cent and youth unemployment is at crisis levels across parts of regional and rural Australia – Tony Abbott needs to be creating jobs not punishing young jobseekers.

Labor opposes Tony Abbott's cut to 54,000 young jobseekers, just as we opposed last year's attempt to leave young jobseekers with nothing to live on for six months.

Whether for one month or six, Labor will not support a measure which pushes young people into poverty and hardship.

The Parliament has rejected this measure once. It should be scrapped entirely.

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MEDIA CONTACT: LACHLAN POULTER (MACKLIN) 0423 937 655

ERIN SMITH (O'CONNOR) 0458 950 010