



## MEDIA RELEASE

**THE HON. JENNY MACKLIN MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FAMILIES & PAYMENTS  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DISABILITY REFORM  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR JAGAJAGA**

**NO SUPPORT FOR TURNBULL'S CUTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

Community organisations have slammed the Turnbull Government's proposed cuts to Newstart that will leave young jobseekers with no income support for a month.

All submissions by community organisations to a Senate Committee report on the *Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill (Youth Employment) Bill 2015* released today were critical of the Government's legislation.

Despite these submissions Coalition Senators endorsed the harsh cuts. Labor Senators dissented from the Committee report because the cuts unfairly punish young jobseekers.

Just like Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull wants to force young jobseekers under 25 to live off nothing for a month, pushing them into poverty and hardship.

Mr Turnbull also wants to see young jobseekers between the ages of 22 and 24 pushed onto the lower Youth Allowance – a cut of around \$48 a week or almost \$2,500 a year.

Labor defeated this unfair Bill in the Senate in September, but Mr Turnbull has since reintroduced the same unfair cuts into the Parliament.

Malcolm Turnbull says he cares about fairness, but he still wants to make the same unfair cuts to young people as Tony Abbott.

Mr Turnbull needs to listen to what key community groups are saying about his cuts to young people:

***“The changes will only be to the detriment of those groups who are most vulnerable within our society.”***

- ST VINCENT de PAUL

***“It is disappointing that measures widely regarded as unfair and harmful for people on the lowest incomes from the 2014 Budget were recycled in the 2015 budget and have now been introduced to Parliament again.”***

- **ACOSS**

***“One month is too long to go without any income, especially for someone who has just become unemployed or just finished high school.”***

- **WELFARE RIGHTS CENTRE**

***“Subjecting young job seekers and their families to financial hardship through reduced payments and extended periods without income support may introduce or compound vulnerability, risking a young person’s mental health and wellbeing.”***

- **ORYGEN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

***“Young people and recently separated women who experience domestic violence will be placed at significant risk, as incomes, personal safety, secure housing and mental well-being are threatened by the harmful measures contained in this Bill.”***

- **NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS CENTRE**

Whether for one month or six, these unfair cuts will leave young people with nothing to live on.

Labor has stood side-by-side with young Australians for more than 18 months defeating these unfair cuts.

We will continue to do so if the Turnbull Government tries again.

Mr Turnbull must scrap these unfair cuts to young Australians for good.

Labor will keep protecting young Australians by fighting against these cuts, just like we’ll fight any increase in the GST.

**MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2015**