



**JULIE COLLINS MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ABBOTT GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REFORMS MAY HINDER  
RATHER THAN HELP AUSTRALIA'S MOST VULNERABLE**

The Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Julie Collins, said the Abbott Government's employment services reforms announced yesterday will work against Australia's most vulnerable job seekers.

While welcoming some of the changes, Ms Collins said extending the mutual obligation arrangements could hinder rather than help some job seekers.

"Many job seekers face a combination of barriers including language, poor numeracy and literacy skills, physical and mental health issues," Ms Collins said.

"What we don't want to see is the Government setting our most vulnerable and disadvantaged job seekers up for failure. We want to see them gain meaningful employment and full independence."

Ms Collins said there was also concern the Government was moving towards making employment providers police the activities of job seekers.

"The devil will be in the detail but if this measure was to be implemented by the Government it would certainly be a step too far," Ms Collins said.

"The Government should allow employment providers to do the important work they undertake with job seekers rather than use them as monitoring agents that pass on information that could jeopardise the person's ability to find work."

Ms Collins said the Government broadening its Work for the Dole requirements was also raising concerns from employment service providers and the public.

"It's clear this Government has yet to think about the significant consequences of cutting off the financial support of job seekers under 30 for six months."

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