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MEDIA RELEASE

JOBSEEKERS ATTACK RAMMED THROUGH PARLIAMENT

The Abbott Government has moved to avoid parliamentary scrutiny over their latest unfair attack on vulnerable jobseekers.

Last night Assistant Minister Luke Hartsuyker shut down debate in the House of Representatives on a Bill that will:

- Remove basic rights of appeal for jobseekers who have their payments suspended for failing to attend appointments; and
- Force over 55 year olds to meet new activity tests or risk losing payments, despite zero analysis of the impact of age discrimination in job market.

These changes are yet another move to penalise Australians who can least afford it and they deserve to be properly debated.

The Assistant Minister for Employment would rather avoid proper parliamentary debate than stand up and defend his campaign against people doing it tough.

The Government did not allow Labor's foreshadowed amendments to be debated in the House of Representatives.

It is a disgraceful show of arrogance from a Government determined to punish Australians who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Tony Abbott is more than 70,000 jobs behind on his signature election promise to create one million new jobs in five years and is instead engaging in all-out war against people who they think won't fight back.

Labor will always stand up for vulnerable Australians and fight against ideologically-driven punitive measures.

Labor will fight for a system that assists people to find employment and creates the jobs that this Government promised but has failed to deliver.

Labor has now referred the Bill to a Senate Committee to receive the proper analysis the Government tried to avoid.

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