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MEDIA RELEASE

ABETZ ATTACK ON YOUNG JOBSEEKERS CONTINUES

The Abbott Government has failed its election promise to create one million new jobs and is instead continuing its all-out attack on the most vulnerable jobseekers.

Legislation pushed through the lower house today will remove basic natural justice regarding decisions that impact jobseeker payments, leaving jobseekers with no support for weeks on end with no avenue for review.

This comes on top of plans to strip under 30s on Newstart of all payment for six months.

Over 55 year olds will also be required to meet activity tests and attend appointments or risk losing payments, despite zero analysis being undertaken on discrimination against older Australians in the job market.

Labor believes the way to assist people find employment is to support jobseekers and grow jobs.

Instead the Abbott Government is using punitive measures which will put vulnerable Australian at risk.

We will continue to fight unfair measures that impact on vulnerable people and make more people vulnerable.

Eric Abetz's failures as Employment Minister continue to grow.

- Forced to abandon ridiculous plan to make job seekers apply for 40 jobs a month;
- Legislation to leave vulnerable jobseekers without income for up to eight weeks for a penalty knocked backed;
- Regulations to strip away protections for participation failures knocked backed;
- Changes to cut support to young job seekers for six months, found to be in breach of Human Rights by his own members;
- Work for the Dole coordinators appointed 6 weeks late;
- Funded only 140,000 Work for the Dole places for over 800,000 jobseekers required to participate; and
- Tender for more than \$5 billion worth of employment service contracts opened late and subject to legislation still to be debated.

This is a Minister who has no interest in helping jobseekers find work and is simply not up to the job.

Tony Abbott should step in and sort out the mess his Minister has created and stop the attacks on jobseekers.

We need a Government that is focused on creating jobs and supporting jobseekers into employment, not one that penalises and punishes those doing it tough.

WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014