



28th May 2015

Newstart changes will force Australians into poverty

The National Union of Students (NUS) are currently furious over the continued assault on young people.

The Social Services Legislation Amendment (Youth Employment) and Other Measures Bill 2015 introduced today is just another botched version of the governments 2014 budget directly affecting students and graduates.

Comments made by Social Services Minister Scott Morrison today, demonstrate a complete unwillingness to admit that the government is jeopardising the welfare of thousands of young Australians, prioritising cuts to crucial income support payments for young workers and students over improving issues of poverty.

NUS President Rose Steele said “A four week wait on any income support will cripple the ability of young people and graduates to live.”

“No wait whether it be 6 month 4 months or 1 week will put young people at risk of extreme poverty”

NUS National Welfare Officer Dean D’Angelo said “If the government believes reducing the wait from 6 months to 4 weeks in this budget is a favour to Australians they are sorely out of touch”

Ms Steele said “These measures will leave thousands of graduates without any support at the most vulnerable point in their lives. Students will be forced into poverty and many will not be able to access basic necessities like health care”

Unemployed graduates account for more than over 15% of unemployed Australians. The government should be supporting unemployed graduates as they try to build a career in their chosen field.

NUS will continue to campaign fiercely against cuts to crucial income support payments, and urge the Senate to continue to support students in opposing these changes.

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