



Media Release

February 26, 2021

Youth Action will continue to advocate for an adequate and meaningful social security payment

The Government's decision today is as disappointing as it is dangerous.

Thousands of young people throughout NSW are currently unemployed and competing in a market with fewer jobs than applications – now they will be thrust back into poverty at this incredibly challenging time.

Businesses, think tanks, community organisations, peak bodies, former Prime Ministers and Premiers each agreed with the evidence – an adequate and meaningful social security payment is good for the economy and society.

What the Government announced yesterday was distressing to the thousands of young people currently struggling to find work while still making ends meet and putting food on the table. They will be living under the poverty line from the end of April.

Youth employment has yet to return to pre-COVID levels, sitting at 13.9 per cent, and for every 1 job there are 13 people seeking work. A JobSeeker and Youth Allowance rate of \$44 a day will further compound the many issues young people are already facing and lead to increased negative mental health, homelessness and drug and alcohol misuse.

We will continue to advocate to Raise the Rate to meet the current Coronavirus Supplement and make sure the voices of the affected young people be heard loud and clear in the chambers of power.

Media contacts

Kate Munro (Youth Action CEO) – 0407 594 916

Anna D'Addario (Youth Action Storytelling & Communications Manager) – (02) 8354 3700