

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Hansard corrections - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021  
- 9 March 2021  
**Date:** Monday, 15 March 2021 4:14:10 PM

---

Hi

As discussed in my call please find below questions on notice. I apologise for the delay. No corrections from the ARA.

**What impact will the \$100-per-fortnight cut have at the end of March?**

Social security recipients spend an estimated 58 per cent of their payments on retail goods and services - at supermarkets, convenience stores and other small businesses.

Based on the most recent figure of JobSeeker recipients, we expect the \$100 fortnightly cut will cause Australian retail spending to contract by \$79.5 million each year.

**Over the next four years, the government will spend \$8.5 billion on employment services. Is this working for local employers, or is there a better way that this money could be aimed?**

The mutual obligation requirements for job seekers need to be fair and measured and assist those on the job hunt to remain confident and in good mental health.

We are concerned about the unintended consequences of having a hotline to report people who decline job offers. This may lead to bogus claims and add to the stress some people face in their search for employment - which could ultimately undermine their confidence and their employment prospects.

**You touched on the impact of mutual obligations. Can I ask you to take on notice the current level of applications you get—if that's possible—for the sector, for work; and, with the mutual obligations coming back on, how many do you expect to receive, how would you handle those and what impact would it have on the sector?**

This information is not collected by the Australian Retailers Association (ARA).

Please don't hesitate to contact should you have any other questions or wish to discuss the above.

Many thanks

Jess

**Jessica Yu**  
**Policy and Advocacy Manager**  
**Australia Retailers Association (ARA)**