

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
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Dear Secretary,

The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

I would like the committee to understand that I currently earn \$400 per week plus receive \$425 per week Family Tax Benefit and Parenting Payment Single. I find it hard to make ends meet as I have 100% care of my son and receive minor child support sporadically. I find it just manageable to pay the bills and what is necessary, yet thoughts of the future concern me as far as education costs for my son and having money aside for the future and retirement. My son is three and a half years old.

Even on this amount I am constantly making difficult financial decisions and always juggling the household budget, worrying about the future. I personally don't know how single parents who cannot find work or who are unable to work can survive on what they receive now, let alone the loss of \$58 per week when their youngest child turns 12.

I don't know how I will survive on that loss. To illustrate my point please see my included Weekly budget.

As you will see from my budget below, my expenses outweigh my income. This is not taking into account the potential rise in the cost of living and makes no allowance for any education expenses for my son.

Simply, I just cannot afford to lose \$58.00 per week when my youngest child turns 12.

Like other parents I will be supporting my children until they are young independent adults.

Please do not support such harsh changes.

Thank you,

Centrelink	\$425
Employment	\$400
TOTAL	\$825
Item	Weekly Cost
Health insurance	\$ 22.03
Alinta	\$ 20.00
Synergy	\$ 15.00
Fitness Insurance	\$ 2.40
Car Exp	\$ 17.50
Car Ins	\$ 10.00
Mobile	\$ 7.25
Telstra	\$ 19.00
Water	\$ 10.00
Contents insurance	\$ 6.88
Dr/Dental/Eyes	\$ 17.50
Rent	\$ 330.00
Fuel	\$ 35.00
Food	\$ 100.00
Allowance for self	\$ 20.00
Garden	\$ 5.00
CreditCard	\$ 45.00
Swimming	\$ 14.50
Haircuts	\$ 5.00
Clothes/Shoes	\$ 5.00
Day Care	\$ 30.00
Sons Savings	\$ 5.00
Savings	\$ 12.50
Movie Subscription	\$ 1.50
Xmas & Bdays	\$ 10.00
Son's dance class	\$ 5.00
Totals	\$ 828.60

Budget Weekly