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13 June 2013

Mr Tim Watling
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Parliament House
ACT 2600

Email: ewwr.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Watling

Social Security Amendment (Supporting More Australians into Work) Bill 2013

I write regarding the National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) submission of 11 June 2013 to the Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and the Workplace Relations inquiry on the *Social Security Amendment (Supporting More Australians into Work) Bill 2013*.

NWRN wishes to draw the Committee's attention to two minor alterations to our submission:

1. on page 6, the reference to the pension income free area of \$154 per fortnight should read \$152 per fortnight, and
2. the Table on page 9 indicates 112,000 Newstart Allowance with a 'partial capacity to work', whereas, consistent with the text on page 12, there are 121,291 Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients with a 'partial capacity to work'.

The recent report, COAG Reform Council 2013, *Disability 2011-12: Comparing performance across Australia*, finds that just 16.3% (or 19,720 of 121,291) reported earnings at 29 June 2012. Women were more likely to report earnings than men – at 20% and 13% respectively. These gendered earnings differences are replicated in the Newstart population overall. The COAG report also finds that Indigenous job seekers with a disability on Newstart or Youth Allowance report earnings at less than half the overall rate (7.6% of Indigenous Australians compared with 16.3 per cent of all persons).

Yours sincerely,

Maree O'Halloran, AM
President
National Welfare Rights Network