



Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Cost of Living
By email: costofliving.sen@aph.gov.au

Economic Justice Australia submission to the Select Committee Inquiry into the Cost of Living

Economic Justice Australia (EJA) is the peak organisation for community legal centres providing specialist advice to people on their social security issues and rights. Our members across Australia have provided people with free and independent information, advice, education and representation in the area of social security for over 30 years.

EJA provides expert advice to government on social security reform to make it more effective and accessible. Our law and policy reform work:

- Strengthens the effectiveness and integrity of our social security system;
- Educates the community; and
- Improves people's lives by reducing poverty and inequality.

In our submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia, we highlighted the ways in which social security policy settings can operate to plunge people in vulnerable cohorts into poverty – particularly inadequate payment rates, harsh waiting periods, and complex eligibility criteria. These issues are equally relevant to terms of reference for the inquiry into the cost of living, namely:

- the cost of living pressures facing Australians;
- measures to ease the cost of living through the provision of Government services; and
- any other related matter.

Please accept EJA's submission to the poverty inquiry, **attached**, as a submission to the Select Committee Inquiry into the cost of living inquiry.

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