



Wednesday 2 March 2016

To the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee,

**RE: The Social Services Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2015
- National Welfare Rights Network submission**

Jobs Australia is the national peak body for non-profit organisations that assist unemployed people to prepare for and find employment. The network helps members to make the most effective use of their resources to promote the need for services and support that will help unemployed people to participate fully in society.

We provide an independent voice for members who range from large charitable organisations to small local community-based agencies. Jobs Australia is the largest network of employment and related service providers in Australia and is funded and owned by its members.

Jobs Australia wishes to support the arguments presented in the National Welfare Rights Network submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2015.

Our understanding is that Special Benefit is a Social Security safety-net for citizens at risk of absolute penury. As such if a citizen has failed to realise the impact of the Income Management Period on their future social security entitlements, they would not have had sufficient warning to know how to manage this event. We believe existing Department of Human Services checks on current financial status are sufficient to ensure their circumstances warrant eligibility for Special Benefit when their assets and income are assessed as having reached the appropriate level.

Yours sincerely

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David Thompson AM
CEO