

Benjamin Cronshaw

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8th August 2022

Submission to the Inquiry into the Workforce Participation Bill

Dear Inquiry.

This Bill “Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation” Bill is much similar to a previous “Workforce Incentive” Bill, which was considered by an Inquiry and reported on in March 2022. Indeed, the start of the Explanatory Memorandum on the new Bill is the same apart from an additional section on increasing the Work Bonus Scheme.

My original submission supported the Bill, and as far as I can tell this Bill has the same merits. The Bill gives flexibility to people who are receiving entitlements to gain extra work if they choose. It would be rather punitive for people to lose their entitlements in the pursuit of work, and then finding it hard to regain their entitlements should they lose such work or have any other problems (such as medical) that prevents them from maintaining their work.

For individuals, it gives them more flexibility to pursue work without such work threatening their entitlements (or being able to receive entitlements when they end such work).

More broadly, increasing the workforce participation can also assist with economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with workers and skills shortages (which are having an inflationary impact in various sectors).

This Bill is not exhaustive and may not solve everything to with entitlements or workforce participation, but it does not claim to. It is a simple measure that seems to have a positive impact, for what it is seeking to change. Hence, I support the Bill.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.

Appendix 1: My original submission being quoted in the March 2022 Report for the Workforce Incentive Bill Inquiry
<https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/WorkforceIncentiveBill/Report>.

2.3 In his submission to the inquiry, Mr Benjamin Cronshaw highlighted the benefits for individuals:

By being able to return to their pension if they lose their work, or it falls back under a certain threshold, they can have more stability and security in their lives. It also allows people to keep their pensioner card for two years, which removes another potential disincentive to work. These are a couple of simple measures, but they seem to be good ones.²

2.4 Given this, Mr Cronshaw concluded that such measures are 'good in the economic recovery we are going through during the COVID-19 pandemic'.³