

To The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the following facts and considerations:

- the Newstart and sole-parent pension rates were not increased in the 2009 federal budget along with the disability support, single age and carer pension rates;
- with the Newstart base rate at \$456 per fortnight (\$228 per week), it will be hard for unemployed persons to maintain morale and dignity while they search for new employment;
- with the sole-parent base rate at \$574.50 per fortnight (\$287.25 per week), many sole parents will struggle to make ends meet and provide adequate material conditions for their children's well-being;
- the twice-yearly indexation makes a minimal difference to the amount actually received by unemployed persons and sole parents.

We therefore ask the House to ensure that the Newstart and sole-parent pension rates are reconsidered at the earliest possible opportunity, with a view to their being raised to realistic levels before the 2010 budget.