

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 339**

**Topic: Stronger Participation for Jobseekers under 30**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

Will any special measures be put in place for people receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance who are experiencing homelessness, including people who are couch surfing, people who are experiencing domestic violence, or people who are caring for relatives?

**Answer:**

Newstart claimants assessed as having substantial barriers to employment using the Job Seeker Classification Instrument (including some that are homeless or at risk of homelessness) will receive an exemption from serving the six-month waiting period for Newstart or Youth Allowance (Other).

The Government has provided an additional \$229.6 million in job seeker support over four years, from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018, for young people affected by the changes to Newstart, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit.

The following measures are available for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, noting that these are continuing measures and were not introduced specifically to support people receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance.

- The Government is providing up to \$115 million into the 2014-15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness to support homelessness services.
- The ongoing National Affordable Housing Agreement has approximately \$250 million per annum to fund the homelessness sector, including 1,596 Specialist Homelessness Services.
- The Reconnect Programme will continue to support young people aged 12 to 18 years (young people aged 12 to 21 for Reconnect-Newly Arrived Youth Specialist Services), who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families.

The Australian Government has provided over \$86 million in initiatives under the First Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (the National Plan), and is working with state and territory governments to deliver a Second Action Plan of the National Plan by mid-year. Over the forward estimates, over \$100 million is being provided to keep women safe.

Parents receiving Family Tax Benefit for a child and principal carer parents are exempt from this measure.

Recipients of Carer Payment are not subject to the measure.

Any further exemptions would be a decision for Government and would be dealt with via a disallowable instrument.