

MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2020

“Enough of the Supplements!”

Time for a Permanent Increase to JobSeeker

Community Industry Group, the peak body for community service organisations in Southern NSW, commented on today’s announcement by Prime Minister Scott Morrison on the extension - and reduction - of the JobSeeker supplement.

CEO Nicky Sloan expressed concern that, with predictions of 1.8 million people being dependant on the JobSeeker payment more Australians will experience a cut to their weekly income and be forced once again under the poverty line.

“While we are pleased that the Coronavirus Supplement will continue until March 2021, we are very disappointed that the amount of that supplement has once again been reduced,” Ms Sloan said. “This means that, from December, people receiving Jobseeker will be living on \$715 per fortnight – that’s just \$51 per day.”

“Once again, this is a missed opportunity to announce a permanent, adequate increase to a rate of income support which is widely condemned as insufficient to maintain a decent, fair lifestyle,” Ms Sloan said. “The introduction of the supplement early in the pandemic was, in effect, an acknowledgement that the basic JobSeeker payment is insufficient to live on. While we boost this inadequate payment with supplements, people on income support can have no certainty or security of income.”

As he made the announcement, the Prime Minister said that Australia can’t stay stuck in neutral but must keep moving forward.

“I fail to see how people on JobSeeker can move forward, when the Government is slowly pushing them backwards,” Ms Sloan commented. “Enough of the supplements, Government must lock in a rate of JobSeeker which enables people to live with dignity and respect.”

Media Contact:

Nicky Sloan, CEO, Community Industry Group

0407 933 279

Media Contact:

Nicky Sloan
CEO

PO Box 6, Lake Heights NSW 2502
Ph: 0407 933 279

www.communityindustrygroup.org.au

About the Community Industry Group

Community Industry (formerly known as Illawarra Forum) is the peak body working for community services and organisations in the South East of NSW. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice.

Community Industry Group represents the non-government community services industry in the South East of NSW, and works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region.