

Sample email to Coalition Ministers/MPs/Senators

Dear Prime Minister - email is <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

Treasurer - email is Josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au

Minister for Finance - email is senator.cormann@aph.gov.au

Minister Ruston - email is minister@dss.gov.au

I am writing to you as a supporter of Anti-Poverty Week and the Raise the Rate campaign. I would like to congratulate your Government on the historic increase to JobSeeker and associated payments that took effect from 27 April this year. We know that it is protecting people from poverty, including over 1 million children who were in a family receiving it on 31 July. That's more than 1 in 5 Australian kids. You can see examples from the [550 Reasons to Smile](#) campaign and survey conducted by the National Council of Single Mother and Her Child on the difference the Coronavirus Supplement has made to their families. Here are some quotes from parents who responded:

Choose as many as you would like from below

"Although this additional payment is intended to be temporary it has made the world of difference to us, the weight of the world feels just a little lighter. I feel like I can be a better parent, and I can now provide the basics that my children deserve. In lieu of child support reform my family needs this payment to survive. Please give us a fighting chance because the 'old normal' is no way for children to grow up."

"This payment has meant moving out of poverty for my family."

"This has helped pay the rent and feed my family. I'm a sole parent with no child support and multiple chronic illnesses. This money has given me breathing room."

"I went off single parent payment in March onto Newstart and couldn't afford to eat myself more than 1 meal a day, could barely afford fresh fruit and veg, got behind on all bills and couldn't fix my car. When the supplement came into effect I cried with relief."

"It has been vital and reassuring and has reduced stress. A basic life would be unaffordable without it."

"I will be able to register my car again and complete my driving lessons so I can expand my job opportunities. It has literally changed my life."

"I no longer need to skip meals so my children can eat. They all have new clothes and shoes. Haircuts are next."

"It has helped me so much in being able to help my child to be clothed and eat more healthy options, to keep my house warm during the winter."

"I'm less stressed and the kids are happier. It's made such an impact to my mental health in a positive way."

"Changed our lives - bought a second hand iPad for home schooling, bought a rescue pet which also helps with stress post DV trauma, yummy food like everyone else, paid off an old parking fine."

“The supplement means I have a safety net. I don't need to worry if I or my children get sick and I need time off work.”

“I've been able to buy real ingredients and make proper meals for the kids. My rent is no longer 60% of my total income, and I can buy household items I've been needing for years and musical instruments to enrich the children's lives.”

“It's hard to think ahead when you only get to live 1 week out of 2. There's no money left in that 2nd week. If the supplement ends in September I don't know how I'll afford kinder, (she's only been going since it's been free), car insurance and even school uniforms next year.”

I would also like to refer to the recent ACOSS survey of 955 people who are receiving the new rate of JobSeeker and other allowances. The survey found that, before the introduction of the Coronavirus Supplement, there were very high rates of financial and personal distress among people on JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance, and other payments and after the introduction of the Coronavirus Supplement, there were significant declines in the number of people reporting hardship:

- The number of people skipping meals because of a lack of funds had dropped by over half, to 33%
- People's ability to purchase nutritious food has dramatically increased, with 93% reporting that they can afford more fresh fruit and vegetables, and 86% reporting that they can afford more meat
- The number of people reporting that they were struggling with medical costs had dropped by over 40%, with only two in five people now reporting that they were experiencing difficulties paying for medicines and health services
- 94% reported that the end of the additional payment would have either a significant or severe impact on their finances

We would urge you to ensure a permanent increase in the JobsSeeker and associated payments currently attracting the Coronavirus Supplement so that they remain above the poverty line. As an interim measure we ask that the \$150 per week planned cut due to start on 25 September does not proceed.

You are welcome to include the 2020 APW logo along with your own email signature and logo

