

## Julia Gillard committed a terrible wrong. It's time for Albanese to right it



By Dr Chris Wallace, political historian  
Thursday 4 August



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Readers respond to Dr Chris Wallace's opinion piece which made a strong link between the growth in child and family policy and the shocking Howard-Gillard government decision to move single parents to the lower JobSeeker payment when their youngest child turns 8 - a decision she argues that the Albanese government must reverse.

### Coll-en-or 1 WEEK AGO

It was an astonishing breach of ALP's prior support for those who faced multiple hardships. It slaps in the face the 1975 inclusion of single mothers into the Federal support system, brought about by Gough.

Single parent hardships and single mothers, especially, should never have been burdened with the demands of a punitive jobseeker regime. Time to restore support to single parent families for their children up to the age of school completion.

RESPECT 17



### Dew Diligence 1 WEEK AGO

Excellent article, well argued, thank you.

Inequality is not at all healthy and we are seeing far too much of it, particularly the persistent inequality between men and women, compounded by massive wealth inequalities. Single mothers are getting the worst of it, and the results will compound through generations.

RESPECT 18



### Erin 1 WEEK AGO

Completely agree. 8 years old cannot look after themselves or be left at home unsupervised so unless single parents have access to available and appropriately subsidised before and after school care, it is incredibly difficult for them to be able to engage in the workforce when their youngest is 8 (unless they can find employment between the hours of 9-3pm). The majority of single parents are keen to work but it is the systemic barriers that stop them from doing so. And then when these barriers stop them, the government punishes them by placing them in poverty.

RESPECT 30





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**KateN** 1 WEEK AGO

Do it please Labor. This policy was a terrible mistake.

RESPECT 40



**denroe** 1 WEEK AGO

As an ex teacher I could see the impact of having to make ends meet for single parent families...not to mention the stress on the parent. Even in these tough economic times we still have enough resources to reverse this monstrous decision. It's about priorities and kids should be at the top of the list.

RESPECT 35



**City Dweller** 1 WEEK AGO

As a solo parent, who has always earned a 6 figure salary, the decision to remove single parent pension from the vulnerable really angered me. Even on my income, it was a struggle to pay high childcare bills, take unpaid leave and support a young family. I could only imagine the unbearable devastation of disadvantaged single parents. This decision was a decision to plunge children into poverty. It must be reversed.

RESPECT 29



**deegee1958** 1 WEEK AGO

I will never forgive Gillard for this low act. Another privileged woman who thinks she knows best for her lesser sister's.

RESPECT 28



**Middle Bogan** 1 WEEK AGO

As somebody who is shortly to benefit from a large tax break for over 60's receiving superannuation one has to ask why Labor governments past and present seem afraid to pare back some of the largesse handed out by Howard and Costello to seniors. Clearly the coming income tax cuts for the very well off are unaffordable and probably a tax break of 10% of ones total earnings at 60 also falls into that category. Single parents and young families doing it far tougher than many deserve a fair go. Whether removing the policy of placing single parents of 8 year olds onto the dole or simply to increase the dole and provide genuine support for the long term unemployed to enter work is to be debated. Either way support needs to be shifted away from well off boomers and high income earners towards those doing it far harder. I'm prepared for a bit of a haircut to help those more in need.

RESPECT 16

