

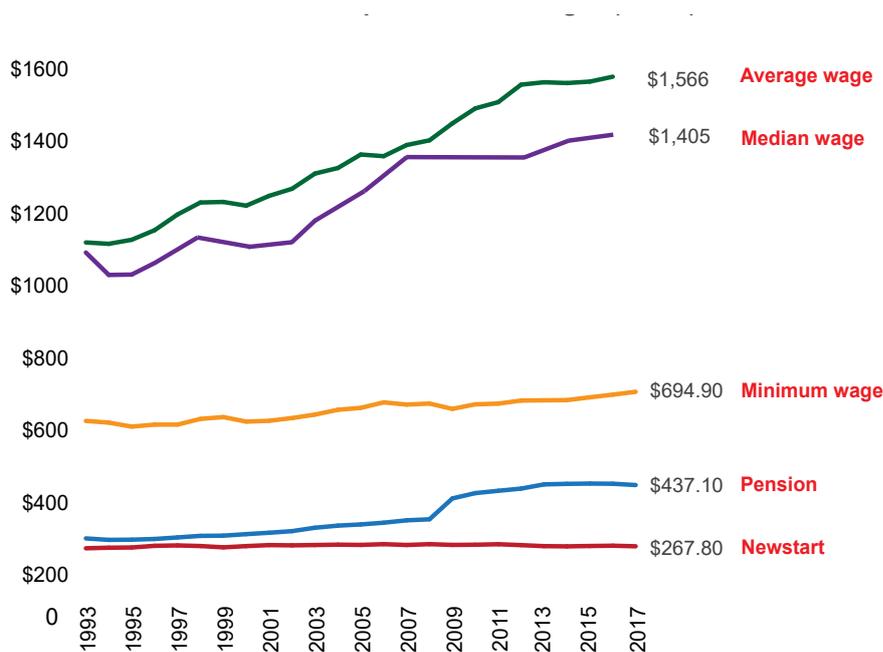
Raise the Rate

Everyone Benefits.



- Newstart has not increased in real terms in 24 years.
- The single rate of Newstart is \$278 per week, \$175 per week below the pension.
- More than half (55%) of the people on Newstart live below the poverty line.
- There is 1 job available for every 8 people looking for paid work or more hours (ABS 2018).
- 70% of people receiving Newstart have been unemployed 12 months or more.
- Single people on Newstart receive only an extra \$67 per week if they rent privately.
- There are just 28 private rentals Australia-wide that are affordable for a single unemployed person (Anglicare 2017).
- Buying the basics like housing, food, transport, etc. costs a single person a minimum of \$433 per week (UNSW 2017). But Newstart is just \$278 per week.
- Over 3 million people live in poverty in Australia, of whom 731,000 are children (ACOSS 2016).
- Spending on the Age Pension is the largest area of social security expenditure (40%) while Newstart and related payments is just 7%.

Newstart versus pensions and wages (\$2017)



Government can Raise the Rate in three steps:

1. Raise the rate of the single unemployment and student allowances, and index them to wage and price movements.
2. Establish an independent statutory Social Security Commission to advise on the financial needs of people requiring social security payments to simply afford basic essentials.
3. Improve employment services so that people locked out of the labour market receive the help they need to get paid work.

A roof over every head, a meal on every table. We must Raise the Rate.

acoss.org.au/RaisetheRate

Australia's social safety net is for everyone.

Australia's social safety net is something most of us contribute to, and most of us benefit from, at different times in our lives. Our safety net should allow people to afford a roof over their head and food on the table.

Every day, people on the lowest incomes are relying on charities.

We think of Australia as a society where everybody can afford the basics.

People are making tough daily choices – meals or bills, rent or pills.

Newstart is unbearably low. The current rate of Newstart does not cover the cost of basic essentials.

It's near impossible to look for work if you're homeless and hungry.

Many in the business, union and community sectors agree unemployment payments need to increase, because they are so low they act as a major barrier to employment.

'Genuine reform must include a willingness to increase the base Newstart and pension benefits to at least an accepted poverty line.'

John Hewson AM 2017

'What Australia has failed to do with unemployment benefits for virtually a quarter of a century now is verging on a national embarrassment.'

Chris Richardson Deloitte Access 2018

'There are single people out there on their own who don't get enough support from government and they are living in poverty.'

Heather Ridout AO Australian Super 2018

We need a 'robust and targeted welfare safety net that ensures displaced workers don't fall into poverty while finding their feet. This could include increasing the inadequate Newstart allowance.'

Jennifer Westacott Business Council of Australia 2017

"If I had extra money each fortnight I would be actually able to feed myself 3 meals a day instead of just my son."

Raising the rate is the first step to getting a roof over every head, a meal on every table.

Raising the rate will:

- improve people's prospects of finding decent paid work
- reduce the huge gap between allowance payments and pensions
- lift thousands of people on the lowest income support payments out of poverty
- will improve social and economic participation.
- strengthen local communities.

Everyone benefits when government raises the rate.

"The cost of housing is way too high and so is the price of food and electricity. Everything is constantly increasing except Newstart."

Raise the rate. Everyone benefits.

Click here to join us.

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