



# CCJP

CATHOLICS IN COALITION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

**Thank you to all the people who signed our recent petition.  
Below is a small sample of some of your comments.**

**CCJP Petition sent to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Treasurer Wayne Swayne.  
“Take action to ask the government to re-instate single parent payments”**

“The Government’s new welfare policy will force around 100,000 single parents, 90% of whom are women, on to Newstart unemployment payments when their youngest child turns eight. This will slash their weekly income by up to \$223 a fortnight, or 12.8% and place additional stress on single parent families that are already struggling. Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace strongly opposes these welfare cuts affecting one of the most vulnerable groups in our society”

*(See full Petition wording below/overleaf)*

**I am a teacher my experience is with helping many single parent women achieve skills for the workplace. Single parents are the most disadvantaged in the community. I am devastated a Labor government can do this...It is very wrong!**

**Whilst the intention of this policy may well be to 'encourage' people toward autonomy it will so obviously miss the mark by increasing the burden of those already disadvantaged.**

**Surely our government can find ways to help balance the budget that will not jeopardise the health & welfare of children; many of whom are already disadvantaged. Please TRY!**

**Compassion & understanding is badly needed.**

**The welfare of these children depends on the health security and peace of mind of their parents.**

**Please do not punish children like this.**

**I know how hard single parents fight to look after their children. They need our support not cutting back on support payments when the opportunity to work is just not provided.**

**I believe it is totally unjust to try to balance the budget by cutting the meagre weekly income of single parents. Surely these people are the ones who should be most supported. Children in this situation are the ones who will suffer.**

**Please stop taking from the poor and giving to the rich. There may be a few single mums taking advantage of the system but the majority are trying hard and struggling to bring up their children in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.**

**Continue the campaign by inviting friends to write a letter to the Prime Minister and Treasurer by going to the Letter Writing page on [www.ccjpoz.org](http://www.ccjpoz.org)**



# CCJP

CATHOLICS IN COALITION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

**The Hon. Julia Gillard MP and The Hon. Wayne Swan MP**

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT

**To: Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Treasurer Wayne Swan,**

## **“Tell the Government not to cut welfare to single parents”**

I am strongly opposed to the Government's decision to cut welfare payments to single parents, and I urge you to support a reversal of this policy.

The Government's new welfare policy will force around 100,000 single parents, 90% of whom are women, on to Newstart unemployment payments when their youngest child turns eight. This will slash their weekly income by up to \$223 a fortnight, or 12.8%.

Around half of all single parents already work in low paid casual and part-time jobs. Unemployed single mothers whose only income comes from parenting payments live below the poverty line. As the Australian Council of Social Services states, “The reasons that the other half do not have paid jobs now include low skills, poor local job prospects, caring for a disabled child, and illness or disability.”

Recipients of single parent payments tend to live in areas where unemployment is high, like Sydney's western suburbs where employment rates reach 10%. Work available is often in the evening and on weekends, and with lack of access to good quality, free childcare or adequate public transport, single parents face a series of systemic obstacles to finding suitable employment.

These cuts will only entrench the cycle of poverty that many single parent families find themselves in. A recent Anglicare report showed that over 15% of children in Australia live in families unable to buy enough food.

As you will be aware, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights stated last week that it was unable to conclude the cuts to single parent pension measures were compatible with human rights.

I do not believe that saving \$728m over 4 years to help balance the budget is worth the future lives of our children. One in five children are now living in poverty and these cuts are likely to increase this to one in four children.

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