



Tomorrow Movement Pre Budget Submission

This submission was drafted by Tomorrow Movement Co-Director, Cat Nadel. You can contact her for questions or comment at cat@tomorrowmovement.com.



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Re: 2020-21 Pre Budget Submission

Introduction

The Tomorrow Movement is a movement of young people fighting for a society with good jobs, great public services and a safe climate for all. In the face of a deep economic crisis and climate crisis, we are looking for the government to create policies and allocate money within the Federal budget to build a better future post coronavirus.

The Covid19 pandemic has laid bare the inequalities experienced by young people in our country. Right now it is harder than ever for a young person to enter the workforce or to plan for their future. Young people are at the forefront of crises facing our employment, our housing and our climate. We know that to address these massive challenges, governments need to take a bold and transformational approach. That is why young people all over the country are calling for a Climate Jobs Guarantee - a plan to kickstart our economy, by solving unemployment and commencing large scale work to address the climate crisis.

The 2020-21 budget must address the intersecting crisis facing young people

Young people are struggling to plan for their future

It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people to plan for their future. Beyond the significant barriers to stable employment and housing, young people are also worried about the safety of their communities as the impacts of climate change become more dangerous every year. Young people in many regional towns are living through the pandemic in temporary accommodation, because their communities still have not been rebuilt from the devastating fires this summer.

For young people to be able to look to the future with confidence, we will need to see big changes in how our society is organised.

Positive impact of Coronavirus Supplement for Jobseeker and Youth Allowance Payments



The introduction of the Coronavirus Supplement for Jobseeker and Youth Allowance income support payments has made a significant difference in the lives of young people during the pandemic. Many recipients of these payments reported being able to afford fresh food, vegetables and necessary medications for the first time since becoming unemployed.

The planned cuts to these payments, slated to begin on September 24th and continue to the end of the year is causing immense anxiety to young people and anyone relying on these payments, who fear they are being forced back into poverty.

“The higher rate of JobSeeker meant I wasn’t panicking about money for the first time in ages. I finally had some stability - these cuts scare me, I’m really worried about my future. All of my job experience is in hospitality and events - I lost my job because of Covid-19 and there just isn’t any work in these industries right now. I don’t know when we will recover, why am I being punished for a situation that’s out of my control?”

Tomorrow Movement volunteer, Cass Willcocks, 28 on Jobseeker, Leongatha

We cannot accept people being forced back into poverty. A survey conducted last year by Tomorrow Movement’s parent organisation YOUNG Campaigns, ACOSS and NUS found that over 50 percent of young people on the previous rate of Youth Allowance and Jobseeker (Newstart) had experienced homelessness or couch surfing. [1] This level of insecurity and deprivation is unacceptable.

The government must do everything it can to guarantee people a healthy and safe standard of living. The Federal Government must permanently raise all social security payments to at least the current level of JobSeeker and the Coronavirus Supplement, including all unemployment, youth, parenting and disability payments. These payments should be extended to include people on temporary work visas or who do not have visas (for example student and migrant workers). All payments must not be conditional on racially discriminatory mutual obligation programs like the Community Development Program or the Cashless Debit Card.

Recommendation 1:

Keep the higher rate of Jobseeker & Youth Allowance and extend it to all.

[Economic impacts of Covid-19 on young people](#)



Young people have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. The youth unemployment rate has increased from 12.06% this time last year to 16.03% this year. [2] The youth participation rate is the lowest on record, with only around three out of five young people participating in the labour market. [3]

Young workers are disproportionately represented in industries like hospitality that have been hit particularly hard by the covid crisis. They are also over represented in casual and insecure jobs, where the inability to turn down shifts and employers who don't provide sick leave or respect the health directives has contributed to the spread of the virus. [4]

The employment crisis has put young people at risk of homelessness. Many renting young people have been forced into negotiations with their landlords, most of which did not result in satisfactory relief [5]. Quarantine has caused a spike in domestic violence, another major trigger for youth homelessness. Even before Covid, one in three people experiencing homelessness in Australia were young people, these are some of the most vulnerable people in our society and have not received adequate support during the pandemic.

Recommendation 2:

We are calling on the government to deliver a Climate Job Guarantee.

Delivering a Climate Job Guarantee

Together we have the skills, resources and time to solve the climate crisis and build a society that works for all of us. But instead of working for each other to solve the problems we face, we are forced to compete with each other for underpaid jobs just to survive. A Climate Jobs Guarantee would change that.

A Climate Job Guarantee must meet these criteria:

1. **Good jobs for everyone who wants one:** Millions of people can't find as much work as they want and the threat of unemployment is used by big business to force us to accept poorly paid and insecure working conditions. A Climate Jobs Guarantee must guarantee anyone — regardless of age, education levels or location — a permanent, unionised job that pays a living wage. These jobs will have leave entitlements and can be full or part time based on the needs of the person looking for work, raising the standards of work for all workers.



2. **Urgent, coordinated action to solve the climate crisis:** The climate crisis is the fight of our lives and there is no shortage of work to be done for the urgent, large-scale action that's needed to solve it. The jobs created by a Climate Jobs Guarantee must be meaningful work that enriches and serves our communities, gets us to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030 and manages the climate impacts we can no longer avoid.
3. **Meaningful work that cares for our communities as decided by our communities:** The people who best know what kind of work their communities need are the people who live there. This program should be administered locally so that these jobs serve real needs in communities. In particular, First Nations Communities must have control over what work happens on their Country.
4. **Public service jobs in the hands of the public:** For too long, the needs of big business have been put ahead of the needs of our society. This is our chance to rebuild our public sector to provide great public services that meet everyone's needs and revitalise our cities, towns and communities. The jobs created by a Climate Jobs Guarantee must be public sector jobs that serve real community needs.
5. **A living income for all, whether we work or not:** A Climate Job Guarantee must not come at the expense of income support for everyone else. Everyone, whether they work or not, is entitled to the dignity of a living income and the support they need.

The jobs a Climate Jobs Guarantee should prioritise work expanding clean energy, improving healthcare, massively expanding and upgrading public housing, modernising public transport, manufacturing essential goods in Australia, expanding sustainable agriculture and retrofitting homes to adapt to changing climates and improve energy efficiency.

A Climate Jobs Guarantee is just one part of the response we need to solve the climate crisis and build a society that works for everyone. Nobody can be left behind as we create the 100% renewable future we need, and support must be provided for workers in affected industries and communities. Everyone must be guaranteed a good job, great public services and a safe climate. A Climate Jobs Guarantee could be the cornerstone of an ambitious response to the climate crisis that would transform our society and improve the lives of millions of people.

[Young people have a vision for the future](#)



Young people across the country are already working towards a fairer future. We know that we deserve a society with good jobs, great public services and a safe climate for all.

We are calling on the government to deliver a budget that can get us there.

Footnotes:

[1] ACOSS, Survey of 892 young people on youth allowance and newstart reveals shocking rates of deprivation.

https://www.acoss.org.au/media_release/survey-of-892-young-people-on-youth-allowance-and-newstart-reveals-shocking-rates-of-deprivation/

[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Commentary, July 2020.

[3] SBS, As unemployment spikes the dire job market for young Australians is imploding.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/as-unemployment-spikes-the-dire-job-market-for-young-australians-is-imploding>

[4] ABC, Coronavirus covid-19 outbreak linked to casual insecure work.

<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak-linked-to-casual-insecure-work/12496660>

[5] The Guardian, fewer than 10 percent of Australian tenants received satisfactory rent reduction during pandemic.

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/aug/06/fewer-than-10-of-australian-tenants-received-satisfactory-rent-reduction-during-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR04TnD_5srEFdyJr-VjlxEVxv-T-TX6ky8H9qx2Ck5sXmLNc7FslqMF1Rs