### Having your say on Newstart and robodebt

The Australian Parliament is holding two inquiries about issues to do with our income support system, and we want to hear from you.

The [first inquiry is looking at Newstart](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Newstartrelatedpayments), the income support payment for people looking for work, and whether it is enough for people to live on. As part of the inquiry, we will be putting together a submission, and we’d like to hear your stories about living on Newstart and about having a Centrelink debt.

The [second inquiry is looking at how Centrelink manages any debts](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Centrelinkcompliance), in what is known as the robo-debt process. Have you had a debt with Centrelink? What has this experience been like?

If you are a person with disability and/or chronic illness, who relies on Newstart or who has had a Centrelink debt, please fill in the form below and email us at pwd@pwd.org.au.

Scroll down for the Centrelink debt questions if you are receiving another income support payment to Newstart, such as the Disability Support Pension.

Questions

**Newstart**

How long have you been on Newstart? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is long-term employment accessible to you? Yes/No

If not, what are the barriers?

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Are all of the current Centrelink or JobActive reporting requirements accessible to you? Yes/No

If not, what isn’t accessible?

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Is your Newstart payment enough to live on? Yes/No

If not, have you avoided paying for any of the following over the last month?

* Food
* Heating
* Clothes
* Housing – rent/mortgage payment
* Phone
* Internet
* Medication
* Medical visit, such as to a doctor
* Dental
* Transport
* Going out, such as to a movie
* Spending time with friends
* Other

Would an increase in the payment make a difference in your life? Yes/No

If so, what would an increase change for you?

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**Centrelink debt**

Have you ever had a debt from Centrelink? Yes/No

How much was that debt?

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Did you know you could challenge or ask for a review of that debt? Yes/No

Did you challenge that debt? Yes/No

How did that debt make you feel?

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Did you have contact from debt-collectors? Yes/No

Did you get help in dealing with the debt? Yes/No

If so, who from?

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Did you have any problems getting information about challenging the debt?

If you challenged the debt, what was the outcome?

Tell your story

Are you happy to tell your story on social media?

Are you happy to tell your story in the media?

Are you happy to tell your story in our submission?

If you are happy to tell your story, please let us know some details

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Age:

State: