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The Australian Unemployed Workers Union (AUWU) is stepping up its 'Fight the Fine' campaign with a series of rolling protests to be held outside of the offices of Senators starting this Friday.

The AUWU's campaign is in opposition to the Coalition's proposed Bill to give privately owned jobactive providers unprecedented powers to financially penalize job-seekers. The bill is due to be discussed in the Senate early this month.

According to Australian Unemployed Workers' Union President Owen Bennett, the Coalition's proposal represents "one of the most devastating attacks launched on unemployed workers since World War II."

Under the proposal, job-seekers will be docked 10% of their Newstart Allowance and will face a further 10% deduction per day until they re-engage for offences ranging from behaving "inappropriately" at an appointment to failing to sign a job plan on the spot.

Pointing to the perverse business interests of job agencies, many of whom are owned by billion dollar corporations, Bennett warns that if passed this proposal will lead to rampant abuse of unemployed workers by job agencies.

"Every day job agencies bully unemployed workers into unfair activities or appointments to increase the money they get from the Government – its just business to them. If any unemployed workers fight back, job agencies commonly use the threat of sanctions to ensure compliance. This has created a culture of fear and intimidation throughout the employment services industry.

Bennett argues that by proposing to give job agencies new powers to issue on the spot fines, the Turnbull Government is sending a clear message that these tactics are not only acceptable but should be intensified.

"Job agencies should have their existing powers taken away, not given more powers", says Bennett.

"Considering that there are 18 job seekers competing for each vacancy – even more when you consider low-skill jobs – there is no escape for many on Newstart. The shocking reality is that due to the Government's failure to create enough work, the average time spent on Newstart is in excess of 4 years.

Add to this the fact that the Newstart Allowance is already \$380 below the poverty line per fortnight and there is no doubt that the harsh financial penalties proposed in this bill will push many deeper in poverty, illness and homelessness."