

Dignity

not DRUG TESTS

In its 2016-2017 Budget, the Turnbull Government announced its plans to give Centrelink new powers to harass, humiliate, and financially penalise social security recipients. As part of the latest round of cruel attacks, the Turnbull government wants to:

- drug test social security recipients and penalise those who refuse
- give Centrelink more powers to financially penalise the unemployed
- force more people onto the Cashless Welfare system
- make it harder to get on the single parent pension
- sack over 1000 Centrelink staff and privatise call centre operations
- kick people with drug and alcohol issues off the Disability Support Pension

These measures are part of a broader attempt to effectively cripple our social security system. The result is the current mess: an overworked staff, inability to provide basic services, absurd call-waiting times, *36 million unanswered calls* in 2016, not to mention the 'robo-debt' debacle, which saw tens of thousands of Australians defrauded by their own government! Orwell's phrase, 'centralised swindling machine' comes to mind.

Turnbull is deliberately trying to make collecting social security as difficult and humiliating as possible. He wants us to feel like criminals for accepting assistance that is our legal right, assistance that is already so meagre it fails to keep us above the poverty line. Rather than investing in job-creation, Turnbull wants to grind us down with cruel measures that punish the vulnerable, the victims of poor public policy.

Our social security system is being purposefully defunded, privatised, and dismantled; the poor and vulnerable are being criminalised and trampled upon. Fight back by joining the Australian Unemployed Workers' Union and getting involved!

Drug testing

The Turnbull government has announced plans to drug test 5000 social security recipients. People who refuse to take the test will be fined and those who test positive will be forced onto the cashless welfare card. Experts have warned it will force many to turn to crime.

Demerit system and tougher penalties

Unemployed workers who miss appointments or activities will cop 'demerit points'. Four demerit points in six months can mean they'll be pushed into a three-strikes compliance system, in which the strikes are: losing half of their fortnightly payment, losing their full fortnightly payment, & then having their payments cancelled for at least 4 weeks.

Pushing DSP recipients onto Newstart

Those receiving a Disability Support Pension due to drug and alcohol abuse will be kicked off the payment from July 1 this year.

Expansion of the Cashless Welfare system

The 'Healthy Welfare Card' will be expanded beyond the current two trial locations in Ceduna and East Kimberley from September 2017.

An attack on single parents

From September next year, parents will have to find a third party to back up claims their relationship is over in order to receive the single parent pension. Witnesses caught making a false declarations about a relationship could be jailed for up to a year. This is an outrageous attack on single parents pensioners (roughly 90% of whom are women) and will make it significantly harder for mothers to leave abusive relationships.

Further cuts to Centrelink

The government has announced it will cut 1,138 staff from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink), and open a commercial process for private companies to take over its call centre operations. This latest staff cut will make (the already abysmal) call wait times and quality of service even worse. Meanwhile, outsourcing call centre operations means that phonecalls will be handled by inadequately trained personnel, and that a privately-owned company will have access to your social security records.

Who we are

The Australian Unemployed Workers' Union is a volunteer-run organisation, committed to offering advocacy and support services for our members. Additionally, the AUWU provides a platform to fight back against the Government's ongoing attacks against unemployed and under-employed workers. Our overall aim is to initiate a national grassroots movement to address Australia's employment crisis. Uniting with other social-security recipients and the public to fight back is the only way this system will ever change.

Become a member

Visit unemployedworkersunion.com to sign up - membership is free and open to all. Benefits include:

- free access to our National Advocacy Hotline
- copies of our leaflets, posters, and Rights Guide
- the opportunity to meet other AUWU activists in your area
- notification of upcoming meetings, actions, and legislation
- access to our growing list of contacts and allies

If you don't think we're the right group for you, we'll be happy to direct you to one of the welfare rights groups we're partnered with.

Get involved!

Become an active member by attending our **meetings**, participating in our **regular workshops** and working groups. Whether you'd like to assist us with our **advocacy hotline**, manage our social media accounts, create **artwork and leaflets** (like this one), plan and execute **campaigns**, or simply help with all the administrative tasks that keep us afloat, we'd love to have you on board!

@ Please write to contact@unemployedworkersunion.com

☎ or call **(03) 8394 5266** to express your interest.

🌐 Visit unemployedworkersunion.com to sign up, download your copy of our Rights Guide, & find out more about current campaigns.

📘 Follow us on **Facebook**.

Our demands

Fair welfare!

1. Raise all Centrelink benefits to Henderson Poverty Line (\$517 per week).
2. Abolish Work for the Dole.
3. End discrimination against Centrelink recipients (including income management).
4. Remove punitive eligibility for Centrelink payments.
5. Abolish use of privately owned employment services industry and reinstate Commonwealth Employment Service.

Fair work!

1. Undertake extensive government-run job creation programs (ie. Job Guarantee Program).
2. Secure employment for all workers.
3. Enforce minimum wage and Award conditions in all workplaces.
4. Reduce working week to 35 hours.
5. Lower retirement age to 60.

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