# Welfare Review Submission Template

## Pillar One: Simpler and sustainable income support system

Changes to Australia’s income support system over time have resulted in unintended complexities, inconsistencies and disincentives for some people to work. Achieving a simpler and sustainable income support system should involve a simpler architecture, a fair rate structure, a common approach to adjusting payments, a new approach to support for families with children and young people, effective rent assistance, and rewards for work and targeting assistance to need.

### Simpler architecture

**Page 42 to 52** of the Interim Report considers the need for a simpler architecture for the income support system. The Reference Group proposes four primary payment types and fewer supplements. The primary payment types proposed are: a Disability Support Pension for people with a permanent impairment and no capacity to work; a tiered working age payment for people with some capacity to work now or in the future, including independent young people; a child payment for dependent children and young people; and an age pension for people above the age at which they are generally expected to work.

In shaping the future directions for a simpler architecture the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* What is the preferred architecture of the payment system?
* Should people with a permanent impairment and no capacity to work receive a separate payment from other working age recipients?
* How could supplements be simplified? What should they be?
* What are the incremental steps to a new architecture?

| *The DSP with and without the capacity for work. People with disability find it hard to maintain part time, casual or fulltime employment, let alone to ‘get’ employment. Too many hurdles, for example trains and buses NEED to be ability undertaken, they are NOT, still MP’s and Ministers treat people with disability as third class citizens, they do NOT care about us, they ‘put’ things in place that suit ‘them’, not the people, prime example of ‘capacity for work’, Example, DSS is speaking about a full bodied quadriplegia working for $2.00 an hour to clean grout from a swimming pool with a toothbrush between his/her teeth. That is slave labour, you exploit too much as a government. DSP with and without capacity for work.*   1. *Family payments after qualifying amount 2) unemployment Benefits-give school leavers priority, don’t let any slip through the cracks, create employment if you have to 3) DSP-permanent nil capacity and capacity for work-cost of some disability factored in 4) sickness entitlements-qualifying period-5-8 years, then onto DSP, if cannot manage or unemployment benefits, intensive help 5) age pension 6) carer pension*   *No, DSS is just attempting to exploit this country’s most vulnerable, please see previous example*  *Have MORE Centrelink staff, see them in person, treat them as human beings, not as cattle. DSP plus incentives to work, not DIS-incentives, like public transport system trains and buses, get your federal and state MP’s and Ministers to agree with the prime minister of the day (policies). If you want people with disabilities to work, STOP creating these physical and emotional barriers to work participation and pay 100% of taxi subsidy scheme, mobility aids, eating and drinking aids, working aids et al, time to get ready with pay, specialist orthotist, make it easier, not harder. When sick, DSP, transition to DSP, or working, if cannot work, speak with them, then make up your mind, don’t leave them hanging on, then DSP or work, however, DSS take the responsibility, not try blaming it on the people.*  *Creating these employment sectors by example (more jobs in Centrelink, more jobs helping people with disabilities, by people with disabilities, not able bodied people, non-exploitative jobs-high end jobs, not only full time, but part time and casual, let them keep first $300.00 per fortnight, then 60 cents in the dollar, create incentives, not DIS-incentives to employment. Remember, most disabled cannot keep a jobs going due to ill health, time off with full pay. positive reinforcement, not negative reinforcement, as to punishment of the poor* |
| --- |

### Fair rate structure

**Page 55 to 60** of the Interim Report considers changes that could be considered to rates of payment for different groups. In shaping the future directions for a fairer rate structure the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How should rates be set, taking into account circumstances such as age, capacity to work, single/couple status, living arrangements and/or parental responsibilities?

| *DSS have just made it more complicated! by giving these examples, DSS is just trying to exploit, DSS doesn’t really care about it’s people. Like MP Tony Abbott, a TEMPORARY FREEZE on his (sharing the pain, sic!) pay, and with DSP and Pensioners, Newstart Allowance a PERMANENT FREEZE ON WELFARE. Look at State and Federal governments first, accept people with disabilities, accept that they need time off, the taxi subsidy scheme NEEDS to be fully (100%) paid for by government in order for us to get there, disabled appliances NEED to be paid (100%) for by the federal government, disabled appliances for work NEEDS to be paid for by the Federal government. Who does the DSS expect to pay for all their taxi’s and appliances etc, the disabled, and what are we going to live on, soup kitchens, the salvation army, so the rich can get tax refunds onto further riches, just another reason to exploit those with disability. look at DSS family payments and single parent payments, it is wrong to make a mother of a child turned 8 look for work (first started by John Howard 2005 ‘Welfare to Work’ policy), the only jobs is a poorly paid job, and is expected to pay for after school childcare, cook dinner, meat, vegetables, fruit, excursions, rent, she is on less pay!, and the child with so much time on his hands, no parent to supervise growing up, ends up becoming dysfunctional, come on, your system is set up to create dysfunctional families. Create incentives, NOT DIS-incentives. Let parents do their job, a child is for life, NOT for 8 years.* |
| --- |

### Common approach to adjusting payments

**Page 60 to 64** of the Interim Report considers a common approach to adjusting payments to ensure a more coherent social support system over time. In shaping the future directions for a common approach to maintaining adequacy the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* What might be the basis for a common approach to adjusting payments for changes in costs of living and community living standards?

| *Raise the pay of DSP so we can catch a taxi, pay for appliances, including equipment to eat with, and mobility aids. DSS and the Federal government NEED to pave the way. Federal transport, this includes trains, ferries and buses NEEDS to be ability undertaken. Make it easier to go out for the disabled, Take a look around you at the cost of living, then apply some thought to appliances to eat, drink, mobilise, taxi around, and then Centrelink exploits them on employment. DSS and the Federal Government create these policies of not taxing imported goods and Federal Government ALLOWS other country citizens not living in Australia to purchase Australian soil and the policy of ALLOWing the importation of people, fly in, fly out workers by, example, Gina Rhinehart, not employing Australian workers, thus pushing up prices, Federal Government creates the high cost of rents and purchases, and living. DSS and the Federal Government would like to take more from welfare!, you are misleading Australia’s public Tony Abbott.* |
| --- |

### Support for families with children and young people

**Page 65 to 68** of the Interim Report considers how the payments could be changed to improve support to families with children and young people. In shaping the future directions for support for families with children and young people the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can we better support families with the costs of children and young people to ensure they complete their education and transition to work?
* In what circumstances should young people be able to access income support in their own right?

| *Increase family payments as children are older, NOT DECREASE them. Such as, total family payments for a 16 year old is $200.00 per fortnight, that is $100.00 per week, how do you feed meat, fresh vegetables, fruit, pay for school fees, excursions, clothing (school and civil), entertainment to a growing boy/man etc on this! Thats not including rent. More truant officers, involve the parents in discussion about their children truanting. Make the schools more accountable, teaching staff, (my child [8 at the time] has a diagnosis of hearing loss in left ear), the child’s teacher did not move him appropriately to the front of the class, I supplied the letter from Westmead Professor and nurse and I requested 3 times, the teacher was arrogant and/or ignored the situation, thus making my child more vulnerable, upset by teacher shouting at him, my son could still not hear her ‘pronunciations’, therefore exacerbating his incorrect ‘pronunciations’, [school work/marks affected]he felt tortured, cried all the time, did not want to go to school, et al in the end I went to see the principal and threatened to have the education Department involved, all this on record. better support families, it starts at school!!, have school involved in this! Make school a fun learning place! make schools, teachers, parents, truant officers more accountable for children, there is too many expectations on young children today. there are always exceptions.*  *18 years, with special circumstances for 12-18 years. Have support at school if receiving no support at home, such as, counsellor, school guidance counsellor, because some children may be experiencing traumatic life at home. Responsible money management is taught, and experienced. Give school kids a set of examples, and a budget, have what the kids prioritise looked at in a MAndatory class situation, have them explain from their perspective, have a debate at school, involve the kids and family. prioritise correct food (in detail-the five food groups-be realistic, prices), bills, rent, both sexes male and female, public and private schools* |
| --- |

### Effective rent assistance

**Page 68 to 71** of the Interim Report considers Rent Assistance and suggests a review to determine the appropriate level of assistance and the best mechanism for adjusting assistance levels over time. In shaping the future directions for Rent Assistance the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How could Rent Assistance be better targeted to meet the needs of people in public or private rental housing?

| *Rent assistance could be increased full stop. if in housing, have them report once yearly, scrutinize, how many people? living at the premises. If abusing that right evict them, if employed give them one year, then evict them, and place tenants in there that need it. Private rental is harder, if you were to increase the rental assistance to those in Sydney, that is unfair, to those living outside sydney. Increase rental assistance full stop, give people the choice of where they want to live, save money or not. Do not ‘kick people’ out of housing in inner sydney for the cost of their house, it is cruel. DSS and Federal Government you have to spend money to save it.* |
| --- |

### Rewards for work and targeting assistance to need

**Page 72 to 78** of the Interim Report considers changes to means testing for improved targeting to need and better integration of the administration of the tax and transfers systems to improve incentives to work. In shaping the future directions for rewards for work and targeting assistance to need the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How should means testing be designed to allow an appropriate reward for work?
* At what income should income support cease?
* What would be a simpler, more consistent approach to means testing income and assets?

| *The family home should not be means tested. DSS should not means test as a reward to work, we are NOT ivan pavlovs dog. use ‘positive reinforcement’,give bonuses, by finances, increase the take home amount by Centrelink, Newstart and DSP, increase the amount they are allowed to keep. do not exploit, people see right through you! Chain and Shackles Minister Kevin Andrews.*  *Cost of living, if the Federal Government Tony Abbott gets his budget through the Senate, we might as well set up shop next to the soup kitchens. Please see all previous comments! so it would depend on a number of factors, whether you can afford to live*  *Currently the family is protected from being means tested. Do not means test the family home. Give all people hope to save, incentives, NOT DIS-incentives. Positive reinforcement. Good things happen if you are good and save. Means test other things, ask them personally, not on the telephone, employ more in Centrelink.* |
| --- |

## Pillar Two: Strengthening individual and family capability

Reforms are needed to improve lifetime wellbeing by equipping people with skills for employment and increasing their self-reliance. To strengthen individual and family capability changes are proposed in the areas of mutual obligation, early intervention, education and training, improving individual and family functioning and evaluating outcomes.

### Mutual obligation

**Page 80 to 85** of the Interim Report considers more tailored and broadening of mutual obligation and the role of income management. In shaping the future directions for mutual obligation the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How should participation requirements be better matched to individual circumstances?
* How can carers be better supported to maintain labour market attachment and access employment?
* What is the best way of ensuring that people on income support meet their obligations?
* In what circumstances should income management be applied?

| *it is difficult for a person with mental health condition to participate and look for work. It is IN-human (as in Human Services sic) to expect. I have seen it. DSS should not be comparing disabilities, what affects one person this way, might hospitalise the other.Treat people with respect, do not take the big stick approach. No mandatory income management.*  *DSS has to face it, there are/is always some people who will always NEED support. Provide carers with VIABLE alternatives, choices, not mandatory, but choices, some people prefer to care for their partner rather than respite care and/or nursing home. these places can be insensitive to a persons NEEDs.*  *If DSS is talking about Newstart Allowance, so many differing people are on Newstart Allowance, people with Disabilities, mental illness and unemployed. Do not confuse them. Disability means, DSP, mental health means, DSP or work, with positive reinforcement to work, manage their mental illness in a positve way, give them hope, not ‘trash’ their hope. Full entitled pay when they are sick. It costs money whatever illness you have.*  *income management, means total incapicity to maintain your own affairs, and we already have mental health tribunal and the guardianship board. DSS is taking away peoples rights and hope! Income management should be a choice, not a tool as in ‘Pavlov’s dog’.* |
| --- |

### Early intervention

**Page 85 to 88** of the Interim Report considers risked based analysis to target early intervention and investment and targeting policies and programmes to children at risk. In shaping the future directions for early intervention the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can programmes similar to the New Zealand investment model be adapted and implemented in Australia?
* How can the social support system better deliver early intervention for children at risk?

| *By increasing tolerance and respect in society as a whole.* |
| --- |

### Education and Training

**Page 89 to 90** of the Interim Report considers the need for a stronger focus on foundation skills in both schools and vocational education and training, and on transitions from school to work. In shaping the future directions for education and training the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* What can be done to improve access to literacy, numeracy and job relevant training for young people at risk of unemployment?
* How can early intervention and prevention programmes more effectively improve skills for young people?
* How can a focus on ‘earn or learn’ for young Australians be enhanced?

| *Improving access to school, via truancy officers, give them leave to investigate, not to label, find out the reason for absence from school by asking them. It costs money for this training, and for my 15 year old ‘white card’ costs money, money that $200.00 a fortnight just does not pay. SO there is a DIS-incentive from the start. Increase family payments, increase the amount of options for a young person.*  *increase family payments, involve parents WITH communicating to school and truancy officers, ask parents and young people what the situation IS for them.*  *Opening places, cadetships and traineeships (with pay) for young school leavers with disabilities. For example, my son (diagnosed hearing loss to left ear) became DEPRESSED when informed he could not join the air force, army or navy for a ‘Transport Engineering Degree’ [ADFA]. My son, with a disability has to WORK/STUDY harder for a academic scholarship, UNFAIR isn’t it, you could legislate, non combatant roles. my son enters into these things with passion, that you will not find in everyone. it takes parenting, to be with your children no matter their age, listen to them, and learn from them, grow with them. you cannot do this when you are BEGGING for food at the local soup kitchen, ‘Maslows Heirarchy of NEEDS’, Abraham Maslow. Increase family payments to those in NEED.*  *Positive reinforcement! show the people that you as DSS and Federal Government understand that need. lead by example, PM Tony Abbott’s daughter did not NEED that scholarship, throw him out of parliament for abuse of parliamentary privelidge, give the scholarship to someone in need, show the people by example!* |
| --- |

### Improving individual and family functioning

**Page 90 to 93** of the Interim Report considers cost effective approaches that support employment outcomes by improving family functioning and the provision of services especially to people with mental health conditions to assist them to stabilise their lives and engage in education, work and social activities. In shaping the future directions for improving individual and family functioning, the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can services enhance family functioning to improve employment outcomes?
* How can services be improved to achieve employment and social participation for people with complex needs?

| *Give them hope for the future, give them employment. Stop the closures of Australian companies, look outside the situation. Increase family payments, increase meat, fruit, vegetables and clothing that families can afford!*  *Taxi subsidy scheme, disabled appliances for work, for example, specialist shoes, orthotics (can cost $100.00 to $1000.00 per pair), clothing, travel to work, all these need to be paid for by the Federal Government. It is expensive to have a disability. Provide disabled with the transport, STOP creating these barriers, transport Australia NEEDS a disability undertaking, vastly improve DDA. Disability Discrimination exists even in the Federal and State Governments. look at your policies* |
| --- |

### Evaluating outcomes

**Page 93** of the Interim Report considers improved monitoring and evaluation of programmes aimed at increasing individual and family capability to focus on whether outcomes are being achieved for the most disadvantaged. In shaping the future directions for evaluating outcomes the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can government funding of programmes developing individual and family capabilities be more effectively evaluated to determine outcomes?

| *Create survey’s on Centrelink’s website, have ‘drop in’ local Centrelink offices, let people have their say. Employ researchers, more councellor’s et al. Let them inform you, do not exploit!, do not take advantage of the truth, people are hurting! if you penalise any more DSS and Centrelink will create social anarchy. Make it a choice to have your say. Create a suggestion box, ask, DO not abuse this.* |
| --- |

## Pillar Three: Engaging with employers

Employers play a key role in improving outcomes for people on income support by providing jobs. Reforms are needed to ensure that the social support system effectively engages with employers and has an employment focus. These reforms include making jobs available, improving pathways to employment and supporting employers.

### Employment focus – making jobs available

**Page 95 to 100** of the Interim Report considers what initiatives result in businesses employing more disadvantaged job seekers. In shaping the future directions for making jobs available the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can business-led covenants be developed to generate employment for people with disability and mental health conditions?
* How can successful demand-led employment initiatives be replicated, such as those of social enterprises?

| *People with Mental Illness or Disability If they become sick, then on full pay, because Centrelink have cut Newstart Allowance for 6 months. Do not exploit peoples weaknesses. Have Centrelink provide incentives of keeping the first $300.00 per fortnight plus 60cents in the dollar for Newstart Allowance. Stop exploiting people. positive reinforcement*  *If the Federal and State governments, DSS and Centrelink are looking to exploit people with disabilities, imagine what social enterprise and private companies will do.* |
| --- |

### Improving pathways to employment

**Page 101 to 107** of the Interim Report considers the different pathways to employment for disadvantaged job seekers such as vocational education and training and mental health support models. In shaping the future directions for improving pathways to employment the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can transition pathways for disadvantaged job seekers, including young people, be enhanced?
* How can vocational education and training into real jobs be better targeted?
* How can approaches like Individual Placement and Support that combine vocational rehabilitation and personal support for people with mental health conditions be adapted and expanded?

| *Increase the trains and buses and make them more accessible. Federal government NEEDS to pay 100% of taxi subsidy, for disabled appliances, and work placement appliances. The policies of NSW health (OHS) need to change to allow people with disabilities to drive ‘pool cars’. The State and Federal government need to lead the way.* |
| --- |

### Supporting employers

**Page 108 to 110** of the Interim Report considers what can be done to support employers employ more people that are on income support including better job matching, wage subsidies and less red tape. In shaping the future directions for supporting employers the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can an employment focus be embedded across all employment and support services?
* How can the job services system be improved to enhance job matching and effective assessment of income support recipients?
* How can the administrative burden on employers and job service providers be reduced?

| *Increase the trains and buses, and make them more disability accessible. DSS, Federal and State Governments are still creating impossible barriers to train stations.*  *transport to these places, access, finances for food* |
| --- |

## Pillar Four: Building community capacity

Vibrant communities create employment and social participation for individuals, families and groups. Investments by government, business and civil society play an important role in strengthening communities. Also, access to technology and community resilience helps communities build capacity. Building community capacity is an effective force for positive change, especially for disadvantaged communities.

### Role of civil society

**Page 112 to 116** of the Interim Report considers the role of civil society in building community capacity. In shaping the future directions for the role of civil society the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can the expertise and resources of corporates and philanthropic investors drive innovative solutions for disadvantaged communities?
* How can the Community Business Partnership be leveraged to increase the rate of philanthropic giving of individuals and corporates?
* How can disadvantaged job seekers be encouraged to participate in their community to improve their employment outcomes?

| *Federal, State governments, public and private investors NEED to take a look at our public transport. NEEDS to stop placing physical and emotional impossible barriers in front of disabled people. Federal government could pay 100% of taxi subsidy and Taxi for the disabled ...* |
| --- |

### Role of government

**Page 116 to 120** of the Interim Report considers the role of government in building community capacity. In shaping the future directions for the role of government the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can community capacity building initiatives be evaluated to ensure they achieve desired outcomes?
* How can the income management model be developed to build community capacity?

| *People will prioritise, it’s just a little different thought processes. We have not reached ‘soilent green’ as yet. DSS NEEDS to stop DE-humanising people. Community capacity Australia’s transport system, ability undertake it. Place your finances in improving access to the trains and buses. Understand Access.* |
| --- |

### Role of local business

**Page 121 to 123** of the Interim Report considers the role of local business in building community capacity. In shaping the future directions for the role of local business the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can communities generate opportunities for micro business to drive employment outcomes?
* How can mutuals and co-operatives assist in improving the outcomes for disadvantaged communities?

| *For example, Woolworths and Coles, doing away with ‘self service’, employ people to work at the checkout.*  *For example, Centrelink, employ more people, people are becoming lost in ‘the system’. it takes 90 minutes on a good day to talk with someone on the telephone. lead by example Federal and state government. Stop exploiting* |
| --- |

### Access to technology

**Page 124 to 125** of the Interim Report considers access to affordable technology and its role in building community capacity. In shaping the future directions for access to technology the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* How can disadvantaged job seekers’ access to information and communication technology be improved?

| *Truent officers be implemented in all schools, investigate, explore, find out the reasons why children are not at school. If the Federal government would target disadvantaged job seekers, then pay for the internet and a computer at home for them. Don’t dismiss them of food, rent, clothing et al as in the Abbott government’s policy, 6 months off Newstart Allowance, thats criminal. Tony Abbott is punishing disadvantaged job seekers by cutting Newstart Allowance for 6 months* |
| --- |

### Community Resilience

**Page 125 to 126** of the Interim Report considers how community resilience can play a role in helping disadvantaged communities. In shaping the future directions for community resilience the Reference Group would like feedback on:

* What strategies help build community resilience, particularly in disadvantaged communities?
* How can innovative community models create incentives for self-sufficiency and employment?

| *by giving them a voice and a choice, not just the government take, take, take, (as in Newstart Allowance) PM Tony Abbott, chain and shackles Minister Kevin Andrews will not be happy until all disabled and Mentally ill are starved out of existence, and working in the local coal mine with handpicks, footpicks, toothpicks, every orifice in the body pick. Get Australias Transport System right and accessible. start from the ground* |
| --- |