

THE WAR ON JOB SEEKERS

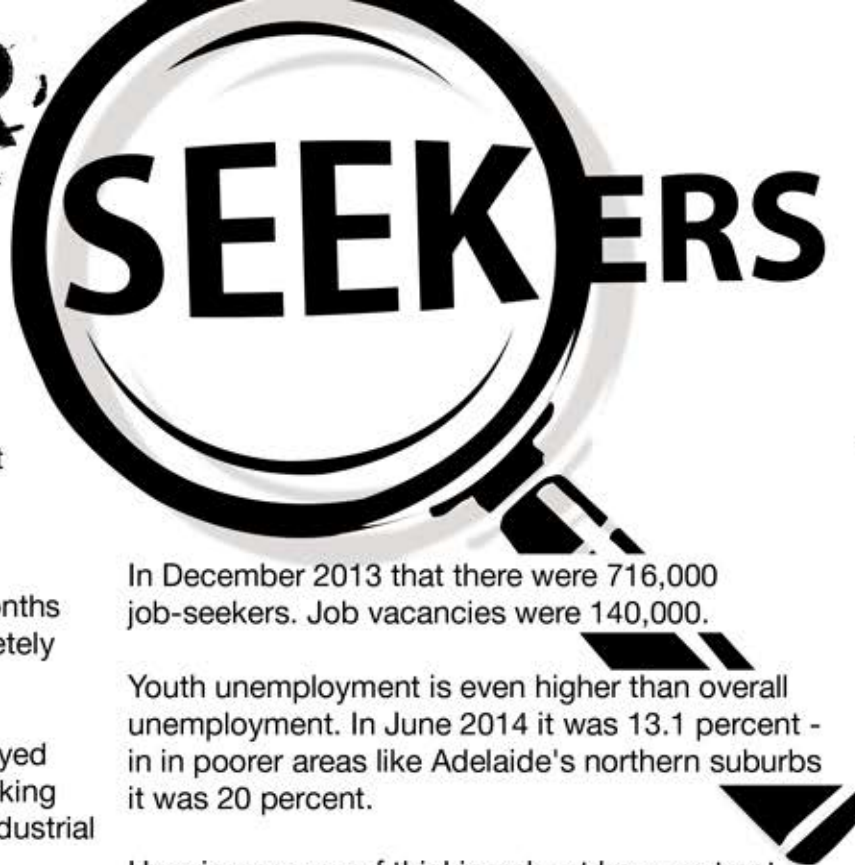
Governments always blame unemployed people for being unemployed instead of looking at other factors. The Federal Budget continues the trend with an extreme attack, especially on the young. Proposals include:

- Job-seekers under 30 allowed only six months on Newstart before payment is cut completely for six months.
- Work For The Dole for under 30s unemployed for more than six months. This means working at less than minimum wage with limited industrial rights and conditions.
- People under 30 who lose their jobs being denied Newstart for 6 months, affecting over 100,000 people per year. What will happen to them?

Where Are The Jobs?

The Federal Government wants to make welfare as unpleasant as possible to make job-seekers as desperate as possible – to make them compete for jobs that do not exist.

But there are not enough jobs to go around - there are at least six job-seekers for every job vacancy.



In December 2013 that there were 716,000 job-seekers. Job vacancies were 140,000.

Youth unemployment is even higher than overall unemployment. In June 2014 it was 13.1 percent - in poorer areas like Adelaide's northern suburbs it was 20 percent.

Here is one way of thinking about how we treat job-seekers:

Every morning 100 dogs go out into the paddock to dig for bones.

Every evening they return to their kennels but at least six are unsuccessful, because there were only 94 bones buried to start with.

Some dogs were just lucky whilst some knew where the bones were buried.

Would you say that giving the unlucky ones a damn good flogging will cause more bones to get buried?

Would you?



Cuts to **Family Tax Benefits:**

Two-year freeze on payment levels proposed. This means payments stay at the same level for two years even though cost-of-living keeps rising meaning overall their value goes down.

Access to payments might also be limited, with proposals for Family Tax Benefit B to completely cut off when the youngest child turns six. The cuts will be the worst for single parent families.

- Low income single parents with one child aged 6-12 could lose up to \$131.62 per fortnight.
- Single parent with two teenagers could lose more than \$200 per fortnight.
- Single parent of two school-aged children looking for work could lose \$4,243 per year or 14.8 percent of income by 2017.
- Around 1.2 million families would lose on average around \$3,000 per year by 2017.

The Federal Government is also looking to cut the **School Kids Bonus.**

WHAT BUDGET "CRISIS"?

We have a **manufactured excuse** for a brutal policy agenda. To radically change the country.

Australia has a "triple-A" credit rating and a public debt ratio of 12 percent of Gross Domestic Product (among lowest in developed world - average is 60 percent).

We have one of the lowest rates of welfare spending in the developed world.

We spend less on retirement pensions, unemployment benefits, and family payments than other wealthy nations.

Instead Of Punishing The Poor

- Raise taxes for companies, especially the miners.
- Abolish subsidies for coal and gas companies.
- Raise taxes for very high income earners.
- End superannuation tax concessions that mostly go to the already very well-off.
- Cancel the purchase of the 58 expensive old-fashioned fighter jets we do not need

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Contact our local Federal MP Whether Labor or Liberal the only thing that makes politicians do the right thing is community pressure.

Share this pamphlet Give it to family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, enemies.

Find out more

Websites

- Australian Council of Social Service:
www.acoss.org.au
- National Council for Single Mothers and their Children: www.ncsmc.org.au
- National Welfare Rights Network:
www.WelfareRights.org.au

Facebook

- Australian Welfare News:
facebook.com/AustralianWelfareNews
- Parenting Payment For Parents – Not Newstart:
facebook.com/NoNewstart4Families

Get involved Join the Anti-Poverty Network SA as we fight for a fair, generous, non-judgemental welfare system. One person can make a difference!!

Phone: 0411 587 663

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Facebook: facebook.com/AntiPovertyNetworkSA

THE WAR ON THE POOR

- **Elderly People**
- **The Sick and Disabled**
- **Job-Seekers**
- **Students**
- **Single Parents and Low-Income Families**
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders**

What will the Federal Budget's cuts mean for the least well-off? What are the alternatives? How can we fight back?

*This pamphlet was produced by the **Anti-Poverty Network SA**, which is fighting for the dignity, needs, and rights of all people on welfare payments and other low-income people.*