



THE FAY FULLER  
FOUNDATION

The Fay Fuller Foundation is a South Australian based private philanthropic organisation funding into the South Australian community. Our mission is to resource partners, support bold ideas, and equip communities to address mental health and wellbeing challenges and to actively participate in the creation and transfer of knowledge and learning to support social good.

We support and resource communities in regional, rural, and remote South Australia where the rate of poverty is twice as high as in urban areas. In these communities the intersectional experience of unemployment, poverty, poor mental health, and lack of opportunities is deeply felt. It is clear to us that the proposed \$44 a day Jobseeker rate will hold people in a state of systemic poverty, that the regional communities we work in will continue to see high rates of mental ill health, unemployment and underemployment, and subsequent negative impacts on other life domains, and that we as the South Australian community will all be worse off.

The Covid Supplement brought the Jobseeker payment above the poverty line for the first time in 27 years - a clear acknowledgement that \$40 a day was not enough for people to live on. If nothing else Covid has helped to turn the tide of public sentiment in favour of a significant and permanent increase. This payment should have increased many times over the years since the last real term increase in 1994. Keeping people in poverty is economically impractical and will always cost the government more in downstream consequences. Every dollar the government additionally invests in Jobseeker generates a significant economic return, helping keep unemployed people and families healthy and housed, and paving the road out of recession.

We, and many others are part of a broad consensus supporting a permanent increase to ensure income support payments for working-age people do not return to below-poverty levels again.

Sincerely,

Niall Fay  
Chief Executive, Fay Fuller Foundation