

Dear Government,

We seek respect, hope, and access to the parenting payment single.

We do not celebrate our child's 8th birthday. Some of us become homeless, and some return to the place of abuse, but we all struggle. We skip meals, limit heating & cooling, and miss medical appointments, but it's not enough. We can't stop the hardship despite our skills, talents and determination. Poverty has prevented us from finishing degrees and makes it tough to get that second-paid job while we do our most important job, single mothering. Our deepest pain is when our children know we are poor; they hide their school notes and pretend they don't want to play sport or that their school shoes still fit. Dumping us on Jobseeker started with the Howard Gout (2006), accelerated by the Gillard Gout (2013). A Labor Government should never be proud of this action. It is time to fix the mistake.

It has been harsh. ParentsNext suspended 160,000+ payments in less than 3 years to mums with babies and very young children; child support debt is close to \$2B, and we are forced to co-parent with our abuser due to 'shared parenting' rules. It is no way to live. We are unique and determined, but decisions we had no power over harmed our families. We crave justice, dignity, and hope.

In 2023 we celebrate 50 years of the Whitlam Government enacting the Supporting Mothers Benefit; it removed economic discrimination and classified women who had a child out of wedlock as worthy and legitimate.



The Hawke/Keating Government undertook significant initiatives to improve the lives of the children of single-mother families, including the Sole Parent Pension.

The Australian Government

E/9 Prime Minister Albanese

Parliament House

Canberra 2600

We call upon the Albanese ALP Government to introduce similar reforms to benefit single mothers and their children. May 2023, we wish to see single mothers no longer classified as unemployed and with access to a parenting payment.

*Warm Regards,
Single mothers and our children
terese@singlemotherfamilies.com.au*