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## Polling brief: Cuts to the rate of JobSeeker

### About the poll respondents

Anglicare Australia is one of Australia's largest charitable networks, providing emergency relief and financial counselling services across the country in each State and Territory. Over 100,000 people access these services from Anglicare Australia member agencies each year.

Examples of these programs include No Interest Loan Schemes, financial counselling, and assistance to pay for bills, groceries, and essential costs.

### Poll and results

On 8-10 February 2021, Anglicare Australia conducted a poll of these services. Service managers and staff in each state and territory were asked:

"If the JobSeeker payment is cut to \$283 per week, our services can expect to see many more clients in need of help."

Respondents were given five options ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. 100 percent of respondents strongly agreed.

### Background to the JobSeeker payment

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Federal Government temporarily raised the rate of JobSeeker and related payments through the Coronavirus Supplement. Changes to the payments were as follows:

- From 27 April 2020, the supplement effectively doubled the rate of JobSeeker to \$557.85 per week.
- From 25 September 2020, the supplement was cut for the first time. The cut left recipients with \$407.85 per week.
- From 31 December 2020, the supplement was cut for the second time. The cut left recipients with \$357.85 per week.

Pending a decision this week, the supplement will be removed from 31 March 2021. This will leave recipients with \$282.85 per week.

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