Dear Secretary,

The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

I would like the committee to understand that I currently struggle on $321 per week. It is barely enough to live on, even with all the stringent cut backs I have personally made to the household budget. It is hard enough that my rent is $260 per week and due to rise. I cannot afford to lose $58.00 per week. That is the amount I spend at the supermarket each week. Without that we will be left with eating only the vegetables I grow that are in season. Or should we cut off the electricity supply instead?

I am juggling my time between study to improve my financial situation, being there for my child and my aging mother, helping out at the school and other community care such as aiding others with knowledge of Bushfire safety and preparedness (I have expertise in this subject), supporting a close friend battling cancer and maintaining my own diet and health as a Type One Diabetic.

I will be supporting my child until she is a young independent adult. That is my number one job. If I do not receive enough financial support to do that job properly - to feed, clothe, educate and house my child adequately, then we shall both be added not only to Australia's homeless statistics, but to the growing number of vulnerable and distraught members of a society whose Government is failing to understand what is required for a healthy nation. Starving the poor was never a good look.

Please understand the long term value and importance of mothers who contribute their time and knowledge toward the present and future health, safety and comfort of this emerging generation. Please consider the unfortunate circumstances of those of us who are on our own, struggling, doing the best we can with very, very little help in any shape or form.

Please do not support such harsh changes by moving me from PPS to Newstart. As a single parent family we are barely keeping our heads above water. Please don't let us drown.

Thank you,
Katherine Seppings