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**Australian Government**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**ANDREW FISHER BUILDING  
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON**

Reference: MS25-000783

Kate Bryant  
Coroner's Registrar, Coroners Support Services  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
[REDACTED]

Dear Registrar

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2025 regarding the Coroners Court of Victoria's investigation into the death of Mr Jay Joseph Harrison (reference number: COR 2023-006521).

On behalf of the Australian Government, I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Harrison for their loss. I also thank Coroner Simon McGregor for his findings and recommendations.

I acknowledge that the Finding into Death without Inquest recommends that the Australian Government should review income support payment rates. The Government has committed to consider the rate of income support payments at every Budget and has delivered significant increases to the rate of income support payments in recent years.

While the Commonwealth reserves its position on whether it is bound by section 72(3) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), noting and recognising the important role of the Coroners Court of Victoria in investigating and preventing deaths, the Government provides the following voluntary response to the recommendation.

I hope this response is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Walter'.

Andrew Walter  
First Assistant Secretary, Government Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 December 2025

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## COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF JAY JOSEPH HARRISON

### **RECOMMENDATION (A)**

*In line with the recommendations of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee 2024 Report, the Commonwealth Government should review rates for Australian income support payments*

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government has committed to consider the rate of income support payments at every Budget.

The Government established the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee to provide independent advice to Government before every federal Budget on economic inclusion and tackling disadvantage. This includes advice on policy settings, systems and structures, and the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of income support payments.

The Government has delivered significant increases to the rate of income support payments. Since the Government was elected, the typical rate of JobSeeker Payment for a single person has increased by \$150.90 per fortnight. This is a result of the Government's real increase to rates in the 2023-24 Budget of \$40 per fortnight, along with regular indexation. This is an increase of 23.2 per cent in three years, providing over \$3,900 in additional support each year.

The Government has also extended eligibility for the higher single JobSeeker Payment rate to recipients aged 55 and over who have been on payment for nine or more continuous months, as well as to single recipients with an assessed partial capacity to work of less than 15 hours per week. Additionally, the Government has expanded eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single) to single principal carers with a youngest dependent child aged under 14 years (previously 8 years old).

The Government also increased the maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 10 per cent on 20 September 2024 to help relieve rental pressures. This followed an increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance maximum rates of 15 per cent on 20 September 2023 which was the largest increase in 30 years. Through these actions and regular indexation, the maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance have increased by nearly 50 per cent since March 2022.

The Government has provided an additional \$11.5 billion in the social security system through the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Budgets combined, delivering on its commitment to provide support, where the Government responsibly can, to Australians who need help the most.