



**Frances
Bedford**

Independent State MP for Florey

9 May, 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWSTART NEEDS NEW DOLLARS

Frances Bedford, Independent Member for Florey, today called for a raise in the Newstart allowance, and for all levels of government to work more closely.

Speaking in her first speech (Address in Reply) since being re-elected in March, Ms Florey said, “During the election campaign, people made it very clear they wanted better basic services – especially in health, and that includes higher levels of care at Modbury Hospital and better mental health and aged care.”

“The Oakden families highlighted the problems that arise without appropriate resources, and not making it clear where responsibilities lie,” Ms Bedford said.

“It’s time to stop passing the buck and make sure overlapping areas of responsibility are not used as an excuse to do nothing. People are facing dreadful circumstances while governments work out what to do – and doing nothing in the meantime is not good enough.”

Ms Bedford supported community calls to increase the Newstart allowance, so that people reliant on this low fixed income could survive while trying to find work.

“The Federal Budget is not going to deliver relief to unemployed people – cost of living expenses continue to rise and getting by is tough, even if you have a job.”

“There is too much evidence to show that getting to job interviews and satisfying the activity test means that singles and families often have to choose whether to buy food or pay the bills they just can’t ignore any longer.”

Frances is working with the Anti-Poverty Network and will be holding a forum to highlight the problems with Newstart and how to start the change that so many people need.

FORUM DETAILS WILL BE FINALISED AND DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY.

Full text of the speech at

<https://francesbedfordcom.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/address-in-reply.pdf>