



The Grandparent

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY GRANDPARENTS

grandparents VICTORIA 

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Single mothers share what the coronavirus supplement has meant to them

By political reporter Georgia Hitch – ABC News - 31 March 2021



For thousands of single mothers across the country, the coronavirus supplement has meant a brief window living above the poverty line. The supplement went from \$550 a fortnight to \$250, and then most recently to \$150. it ended on 30th march 2021.

In an open letter to the Prime Minister, the **National Council for Single Mothers and their Children** collated a series of stories from women on the difference the payment made. The supplement had a positive impact — which have already slipped away. Some points made by single mothers were:

I am Back to eating five-minute noodles and Nutella sandwiches.

For the first time in many, many months, I could actually buy food. FRESH FOOD! Fruit and vegetables!

I have a special needs son, it helped me replace things like his glasses that were desperately due.

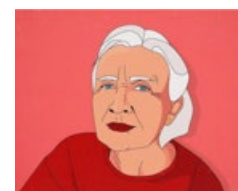
I have again started missing dinner at night, the kids think that I eat dinner after they go to bed

I wish my kids could learn to swim but I can't afford to get them lessons once the payment is cut. I feel like I'm letting my kids down. I had to leave their father who was an abusive alcoholic and now my kids live in poverty.

Once the supplement is totally gone it's going to be so hard again, the worst bit will be having to tell my son we can't afford basic things again

I am back to doing a half grocery shop for my 4 children. I am breaking on pay day again.

I am a grandmother [on JobSeeker] raising 3 grandchildren. The extra corona money was such a relief to our family, for the first time I felt able to pay electricity bills without it being so hard. Now, I'm back to this terrible anxiety ... each fortnight I'll get further and further behind. It's heartbreaking.



Older women spoke about caring for their grandchildren while on payments. With the \$550 extra I did not lie awake stressing about how to pay bills and feed my children.

And for some, it meant the ability to get out of a dangerous situation:

This payment helped me flee domestic violence and get back on my feet without having to struggle to make ends meet while also working a part-time job.

That \$550 was such a help, now \$150, so hard to pay bills and put food on the table every fortnight.

I was lucky to receive the \$550 per fortnight payment shortly after escaping from domestic violence. The money allowed me to replace all that was left behind. Since the cut I definitely don't shop anymore.