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Renters and Housing Union Condemns Cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper

Today's cuts to Jobseeker and Jobkeeper will hit renters hardest. [RAHU](#) has emerged as a vital grass-roots organisation to support renters and those in precarious housing throughout the pandemic, but we are about to see huge numbers of renters plunged into poverty by the federal government's callous policy.

The JobSeeker supplement will be slashed by 55%, from \$550 to \$250 a fortnight. With a median rent of \$475 per week in metropolitan areas, many renters on Jobseeker will have [to survive on \\$3 per week](#). Nationwide, [less than 1%](#) of rental properties are affordable for renters on JobSeeker.

JobSeeker and JobKeeper recipients will see in the new year with these rates reduced yet again.

These measures are indefensible. Renters are disproportionately those on income support, and the government's mean-spirited cuts to Jobseeker and Jobkeeper will make life much more difficult for those at the sharp end of the pandemic. Property investors might claim to be doing it tough, but no mum and dad landlord will be at risk of homelessness. No mum and dad landlord will be forced into accepting a rent deferral to keep a roof over their head. No mum and dad landlord will feel increasing anxiety as we count down to the end of the eviction moratorium in March.

RAHU demands that we [#KeepTheRate](#). It's the only way to keep renters in housing and out of poverty.

Quotes Attributable To: Paddy Gordon, Media Officer, RAHU

Everyone is doing it tough in some areas, but as renters we are struggling across the board. The cuts to jobseeker and jobkeeper make a decent life impossible. The rich get tax cuts while we have to get by on \$40 a day.

We'll struggle to afford rent, groceries and medical care. An investment can run at a loss, but you can't live without a home. The government won't support us, but RAHU will continue to stick up for the most vulnerable. If you're a renter, join us. We can support each other.

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The Renters And Housing Union (VIC) is a newly formed, member-run Union of renters and people in precarious housing. We organise collectively to fight for the right to safe and secure housing through self-advocacy, education, and frontline eviction defence.

Find out more and join RAHU <https://rahu.org.au/>

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