



Our Submission to the Select Committee on Cost of Living



This is an Easy Read version of an Inclusion Australia **submission**.



A **submission** is when we write to the Government and tell them what we think.



This submission was for the Inquiry into the Cost of Living.



The Inquiry looked at how well people can afford to pay for everyday things like

- Housing
- Food
- Healthcare
- and so on.

What did we say?

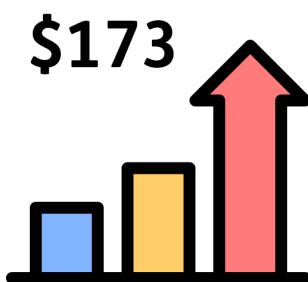


We told the Government about the issues people with an intellectual disability can have with the cost of living.



People with a disability often have more things to pay for than people without a disability.

The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling or NATSEM for short says



- Households with an adult with very high support needs need an extra \$173 a week



- Households with an adult with low to medium support needs need an extra \$87 a week.

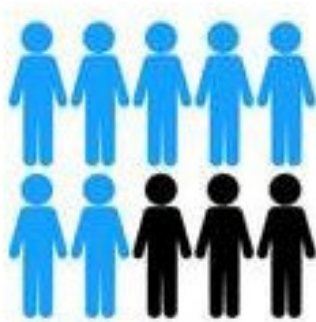


Some of the extra costs people with disability may have are

- Medications
- Appointments with doctors or specialists
- Buying assistive aids or special equipment
- Therapy and support costs.



People with disability are also more likely to have a harder time affording everyday things than other people.



7 out of 10 people with an intellectual disability have the **Disability Support Pension** as their main income.



The **Disability Support Pension** or **DSP** for short is a Centrelink payment from the Government.



1 reason so many people with an intellectual disability have the **DSP** as their main income is because it can be hard for them to get a job.



Any money people with disability earn from working can also mean they get less money from the DSP.



People with an intellectual disability told us that the DSP is not enough money to afford everyday things like



- Rent
- Food and clothes
- Public transport costs
- Social activities in the community.



They also told us the DSP can be stressful and hard to understand.

Lots of people said they need help from family or other supports to fill in the forms and talk to Centrelink.



We want the Government to look at how the rising cost of living affects people with an intellectual disability.



We want the Government to make the DSP

- less stressful
- easier to understand for people with an intellectual disability and their families.



We want the Government to make it easier for people with an intellectual disability to get a job so they do not have to rely on the DSP.