

JOBSEEKER ANTHEM

SONG CHALLENGE



Media Release

7 July 2021

Songwriters in running for \$10,000 prize to give voice to people on low incomes.

A national songwriting contest with a \$10,000 cash prize has been launched to give voice to the hundreds of thousands of people who can't find work or enough of it and are struggling to survive on JobSeeker Payment which, for a single, is \$140 a week below the poverty line. Women over 45, the fastest growing group of jobseekers, are particularly vulnerable as are the 300,000+ on Jobseeker who can't work due to illness or disability.

Australian musicians are asked to write and record their best anthem, one that represents those unable to make ends meet on current income support and submit this by 5 September 2021 to be in the running for the prize. The one-off song competition is in response to community outrage that people on JobSeeker Payment, and similar income support payments, are being forced to live on \$44 a day resulting in having to choose between basic things like food, medications or power bills.

Competition co-convenors Stacey Thomas (CEO of The Wyatt Trust) and Paul Madden report that, 'There was widespread support for a raise in income support rates but the resulting \$4 per day earlier this year did little to change things for people living in poverty. We need to continue to give voice to those on JobSeeker Payment and having an anthem that speaks to the dilemmas they face is another way we can do this.'

In providing the platform for the competition, Ali Taylor, Listen Up Music Co-Founder and CEO says, 'Music is a universal language. We know that people experiencing different forms of adversity find not only solace, but voice and community through song. This competition expands our reach from those passionate about positive mental health to a larger group whose financial hardship has far-reaching health and wellbeing impacts.'

The support for raising the rate of income support has not only been evidenced in public sentiment but also from politicians, economists and business leaders. The \$10,000 cash prize is in the process of being community crowdfunded through [JobSeeker Anthem - Song Challenge \(mycause.com.au\)](https://mycause.com.au)

Submissions to the JobSeeker Anthem Song Contest close at 11:59pm Sunday 5 September 2021. Entries can be lodged online at www.listenupmusic.com.au/events/jobseeker-anthem

For further media information contact:

Song Contest Convenors: Stacey Thomas M: 0403 498 458 E: sthomas@wyatt.org.au
Paul Madden M: 0411 740 549 E: paul.madden@brightfutures.com.au

Song Contest Organiser: Ali Taylor (Listen Up Music) M: 0488 188 520

About Listen Up Music

Listen Up Music is an award winning, registered mental health charity that runs music-focussed events and education. Listen Up Music has partnered with concerned citizens who want to highlight how the inadequate rate of income support drives inequality and poverty. The adverse impact of the low rate of JobSeeker includes increasingly poor mental health and further barriers to seeking support and treatment.