



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE ACT
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Deputy Chair)
Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT

Submission Number: 017

Date Authorised for Publication: 21 March 2023

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Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country

Submission to the Cost of Living Enquiry

I am a twenty-five-year-old law graduate and animator about to start my Practical Legal Training so I can become a lawyer. I spend five days a week, 9-to-5, applying for jobs and volunteering. I use Jobseeker to pay \$250 board a week to my parents so I can rent a room in their fairly beautiful but medium-sized O'Connor house. There is not much space, privacy or independence so we are often bickering. My brother moved out because he did not feel respected as a trans man in our family. Every day is like Groundhog Day.

The economy in the ACT is in crisis mode. I cannot afford rental bonds, a car, to learn how to drive (I came of age studying in a city where I could not afford to keep a car), to fill a car with fuel, to get haircuts, to buy new underwear and bras, to get ambulance cover, to travel, to fix my ailing and dangerous bicycle, to go to the dentist, to get my glasses prescription updated (that would allow driving), to get a Passport that would allow the background checks that strengthen rental applications, to buy work clothes that fit me, to buy a less-worn computer charger, to buy a new computer, to follow my doctor's advice on getting skin cream to prevent me getting acne, to go on the pill or get an IUD, to go out with friends, to play sport or have hobbies, or to get long-term therapy to manage PTSD and haphephobia. Haphephobia is "an intense, irrational fear of being touched", which makes workplaces that ignore boundaries hostile to me.

I ate bread out of bins so that I could go to animation school, but I don't get to follow my dreams of becoming a film director because it's too expensive and I can't afford the elitist networking. You don't get to be in the right place or equipped with art supplies if you're poor. I am happy to settle for any law job I can get. I did not study two degrees and amass that much HECS debt for nothing. You might think "they'll get a job and everything will be fine". I won't forget this. If you don't improve the lives of young people, we should take your jobs.

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