

Shane Rattenbury MLA  
ACT Greens Member for Kurrajong

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Adam Bandt MP  
Leader – Australian Greens  
[Adam.Bandt.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Bandt.MP@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Bandt *Adam*

I am writing as the Leader of the ACT Greens regarding a motion passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly on Thursday 7 October 2021 concerning Australia's social and economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The motion called on the leaders of the three political parties represented in the Assembly to write to the Federal leaders of their respective political parties calling for an increase to, and an indexation of, all social security payments so that these are above the Henderson Poverty Line.

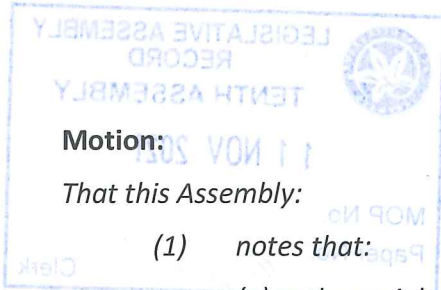
We recognise the ongoing work of the Australian Greens in Federal parliament on these matters, and also acknowledge the work of Green representatives across all Australian jurisdictions to support and empower community members unfairly impacted by the inadequate support offered by the Federal Government during the pandemic.

On behalf of the ACT Greens I urge you and your colleagues to note and take action on the call by the ACT Legislative Assembly, and to continue your ongoing pressure on the Australian Government to better support our peoples.

Kind regards,

Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Member for Kurrajong

CC: Andrew Braddock MLA, Member for Yerrabi.



**Motion:**

That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) the social and economic impacts of the ACT's COVID outbreak are having disproportionate impacts across the community, deepening inequality. This has particularly affected groups already experiencing disadvantage;
  - (b) these impacts are likely to last for many years, entrenching existing inequality through wage scarring, underemployment, unemployment, and reduced economic prospects;
  - (c) the Federal Government's income supports are insufficient to keep Canberrans out of poverty, further exacerbating the economic consequences for marginalised groups;
  - (d) the Federal Government's choice to stop the COVID disaster payments prioritises the economy over people, is inconsistent with ACT Health advice, and adversely affects thousands of Canberrans still facing restrictions;
  - (e) emergency relief is increasingly accessed repeatedly by Canberrans who are presenting with complex, long-term issues;
  - (f) the ACT Government has an essential role in providing long-term, strategic leadership, as well as supports and services, to help Canberra's social recovery from COVID; and
  - (g) in 2020, the ACT Government commenced work on a community recovery plan to support our community through our extended pandemic community recovery, which is ongoing and being implemented. The Targeted Assistance Strategy, one of the ACT Government's main mechanisms for alleviating hardship and social exclusion, has been agreed to be updated, with options potentially considered in the 2022 Budget process;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) develop an ACT Social Recovery plan to address the social and economic impacts of COVID. This plan shall:
    - (i) identify:
      - (A) the long-term individual, community, and territory-wide impacts of COVID, in particular on groups already experiencing disadvantage; and
      - (B) what personal, material, social and financial supports and strategies are necessary to help Canberra's social recovery from COVID with a focus on marginalised or disadvantaged groups;
    - (ii) be developed in consultation with impacted groups and the wider community, and be clear about the time frames and likely consequences of living with COVID;

- (iii) *be underpinned by the ACT Wellbeing Framework, with a particular focus on living standards, access and connectivity, and social connection;*
    - (iv) *create a roadmap to rebuild Canberra's social fabric, through the safe re-introduction of events, recreational and sporting activities, and educational and volunteering opportunities, with a focus on community building and inclusion;*
    - (v) *specify regular opportunities for revision with feedback from key stakeholder groups; and*
    - (vi) *identify the government programs through which these strategies could be funded and implemented;*
  - (b) *provide quarterly reports to the Assembly on the development and implementation of the ACT Social Recovery Plan;*
  - (c) *incorporate the relevant findings from the agreed update to the ACT's Targeted Assistance Strategy and associated targeted concession assistance measures, including the current rates concessions, rebates and deferrals system; and*
  - (d) *identify any further measures required to ensure concessions and rebates are adequate and well-targeted, with input from relevant community organisations working to support people in the community; and*
- (3) *calls on the leaders of all parties represented in the Assembly to write to the Federal leaders of their respective political parties calling for an increase to, and an indexation of, all social security payments so that these are above the Henderson Poverty Line. Copies of these letters shall be tabled in the Assembly by 11 November 2021.*