

26/07/18

I am writing this submission with a laptop I have borrowed from a church, from a room I am renting from a family member, who can only keep me until the end of the month.

These are the results of poverty. No doubt I have my own issues, but they are only exacerbated by the constant stressors of being unemployed and poor: Centrelink issues; job agency treatment; job search requirements and constant rejection that comes with it; struggling to pay bills; struggling to eat meals; constant social exclusion; absolutely no quality in life; among other things.

Welfare payments are horrifically low but using this submission to explain that to anyone reading would be a waste of this precious opportunity, since you already know that. I would like to take the opportunity to express my concern in regards to the cost and implementation of things that the state government has the power to change – and should change, for the betterment of our people and our communities, and society overall.

Firstly, why do the Adelaide Metro transport fares continue to rise, seemingly to no end? If I'm not mistaken, when the metro-cards were initially introduced, an inter-peak concession fare with the card cost about 80 cents, maybe less. Now, as of the 1st of July, it costs 98 cents. When I was a kid I used to find it absurd how much my grandma cared about 20 cents. Now fast-forward just fifteen years and I'm the same!

These increases may seem insignificant for most, but not for people who have to watch every dollar - especially considering I've heard complaints about the cost of public transport for concession holders for **over two years**. That means existing prices have already been out of reach for too many. And it's only being increased more and more?!

... And speaking of concession holders, for what reason did the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion implement the transport concession card? For years... no, decades... healthcare and Medicare cards were used as proof of concession, and suddenly we have to renew this plastic that does the same thing, every three months? Ironically all this does is force more social exclusion because people are being fined for not having one. Not for evading fares, but for not having a third concession card. What is going on here?!

I have heard from community workers (and they themselves have voiced their concern) that public and community housing is only decreasing. At a time where more and more people are struggling, with less and less money relative to years before, we are continuing to further privatise our housing. All this does it make it more difficult for people like me – a young unemployed male – to actually find a house, and have somewhere to call home. House hunting is similar to job hunting; if you don't have the resume, you're going to get rejected. If you're poor, you'll be silently discriminated against. In this regard, it's quite simple – *the government is not governing*.