

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Vilification
Date: Friday, 11 June 2021 8:40:01 PM

I have been vilified by Centrelink and the job people. Firstly I had to wait 2 months for Centrelink payment jobseeker when I had a medical certificate because I broke my kneecap and pulled all my muscles from a fall. I threatened self harm because I had no income and was very depressed. I had to speak to a social worker who I told Centrelink was committing institutional abuse because if it was my husband making me present the same bank accounts etc over and over again and refusing to give me shopping money he would be accused of domestic violence. Yet the federal government can get away with this behaviour without consequence. I ended up with breast cancer and was off work for 16 months and then told by work that I could not expect the same shifts I had before because other people had been employed in my absence. I rang the Jobsearch people for some help with on line registration and was told I was not eligible for help because I was not registered with a provider while I was ill, but told I must call them back within 2 weeks when I was registered. The woman was just having a control moment because when I rang I was told they didn't know anything about it. I was exempt from the job search while I had a medical certificate.

This occurred in October 2019, I had done all the forms by myself and provided a book full of documentation to the local Centrelink office in August as I waited a month from the injury because I was in too much pain to deal with bureaucracy. I am now back at work but report every week to Centrelink and must do 15 hours a week or report to NEATO. I am 65years old person who has been very ill. I would like to be able to spend more time with my partner who is 69 with heart disease having had major surgery and unable to work. I would retire tomorrow if I could especially as I think my cancer has returned.

Thanks for listening.

Isobel Barker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]