

This modelling of the income and expenditure of five different household 'types' reveals the pressures in covering basic living costs, such as housing, utilities, food and transport. It does not include the unexpected and unbudgeted costs that are part of everyday life.

## Model Households



This is the first time in the *Cost of Living* series where the income of the unemployed single household has exceeded their basic living costs.

The temporary addition of the Coronavirus Supplement meant this household could afford their essential spending, but the Federal Government has already begun reducing this payment. A permanent increase in income support is needed for this household.



If the single parent lost their job during the pandemic, the gap between their income and expenses would have halved.

If their youngest child had been just a year older (age 8), they would no longer be eligible for the Parenting Payment (Single) and would have to rely on JobSeeker. They would then be **-\$126.70** short of covering their weekly living costs.



If both parents keep their jobs, the two parent family's income surpasses their basic living costs by \$201.29 per week. Their largest weekly expenses are rent, and food and beverages, followed by running a car.

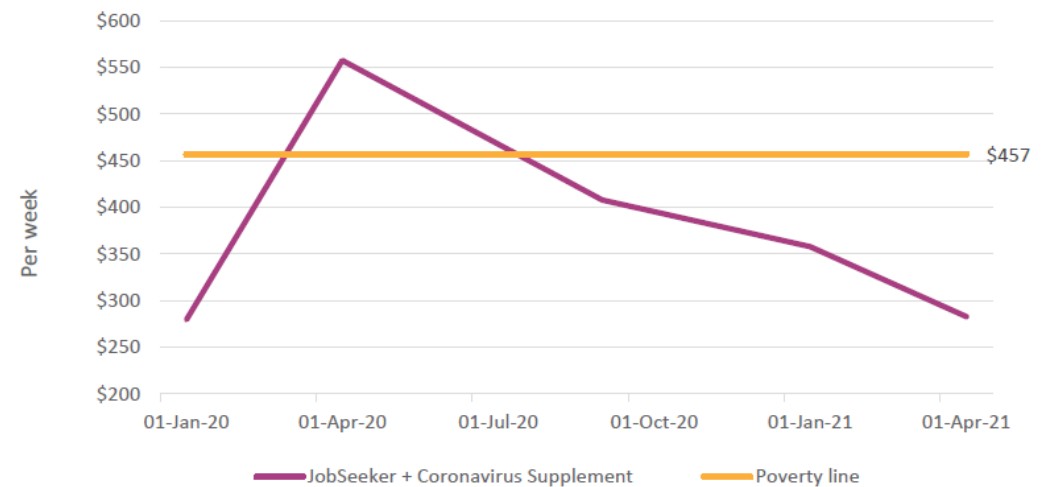


While the home-owning age pensioner comes out \$111.84 ahead, the renting age pensioner has only \$77.11 after meeting their basic living costs, due to their housing situation.

Weekly income and expenditure of model households

	Income	Expenditure	Net Position
Single Parent Family	\$1,070.11	\$958.86	\$111.25
Two Parent Family	\$1,524.07	\$1,322.75	\$201.29
Unemployed Single	\$378.37	\$330.52	\$47.85
Age Pensioners (Renters)	\$768.72	\$709.60	\$77.11
Age Pensioners (Home Owners)	\$721.58	\$609.74	\$111.84

JobSeeker, Coronavirus Supplement and Poverty



Source: Australian Department of Human Services, ACOSS and UNSW *Poverty in Australia 2020*