

# Scomo's latest welfare cuts: 130,000 sole parents lose out

By Leon Moulden

1 September 2016



**One in three sole parents are unemployed but the Coalition Government still talks welfare cuts. Leon Moulden warns that focussing on the poor and vulnerable will forfeit our right to a tolerant, fair, and equitable society.**

ONCE AGAIN, [ABS Labour Force](#) data shines a spotlight on the economic experience of Australian families. Highlighting the degree of unemployment families are experiencing, especially sole parent families with children.

The [new Labour Force](#) statistics released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Monday, provide a view of unemployment at the very tangible level of the family unit. These statistics show that many Australian families don't have a single member of their family in employment. In total, there are over 329,000 families with dependants in Australia that don't have at least one family member in work.

But as in previous years, it is sole parent families that are over represented in these statistics.

The statistics clearly show that while sole parent families account for only 15% of all families, they account for third of jobless families. And of these jobless sole parent families, 90% have children under the age of 15 years, with single mother families accounting for 84% of all sole parent families. Furthermore, unemployed sole parents tend to be those with the youngest children, thus only 37% of sole parents with children under the age of five are in employment.

Yet even with significant numbers of families experiencing life without work, the nation's Treasurer, [Scott Morrison](#) is taking welfare recipient bashing to a new level with his "the taxed and the taxed-nots." So it is timely that the ABS data reminds us that there are many Australian families struggling to find employment. And, that many of these families are sole parents caring for children.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of Australia's "taxed nots"  
<https://t.co/SbBNiIKVn0>  
[pic.twitter.com/DUg05lvNzY](http://pic.twitter.com/DUg05lvNzY)

— Mark:Di-Stefano (@MarkDiStef)  
[August 25, 2016](#)

And while the [ABS report on the language of unemployment](#) and [government statistics](#) demonstrated that [\\$50 billion](#) is still like seasonal unemployment ["lifers"](#) and



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