



# JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

**THE HON KEVIN ANDREWS MP**

Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services

**SENATOR MATHIAS CORMANN**

Shadow Minister for Employment Participation

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## **Welfare reform: Mark Arbib all talk, no action**

Ten days after the Coalition attacked the government's watering down of Australia's welfare system, junior Labor Minister Mark Arbib has adopted the Kevin Rudd approach to the situation, talk tough, but do nothing.

"It's not good enough to talk tough when your track record includes overseeing the implementation of changes that have watered-down mutual obligation requirements. Welfare recipients don't even need to get out of bed to claim anymore" said Kevin Andrews, Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services.

"Mark Arbib is talking tough but the reality is that it's all spin. I am happy to tell him how to fix this problem, and that is, to revert back to the strong system put in place by the former Coalition government" Mr Andrews said.

Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Mathias Cormann said that ordinary Australians were being forced to pay for people not meeting their mutual obligation requirements.

"Minister Arbib thinks that nobody has noticed that Labor has gone soft on programs like work for the dole and is using yet another review as a way of tightening up loopholes that his government created."

"Now he says we need to get tough. Well, Minister Arbib shouldn't need a review to tell him what we already know, that is Labor has been too soft on welfare recipients for too long," Senator Cormann said.

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