



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

The relationship between **income** **support** and **emergency relief**

VINNIES REBUILDS RESTORES RENEWS



Overview

- **Social protections & human rights**
- **Is JobSeeker adequate?**
 - **Income support and the cost of living**
 - **Reliance of emergency relief**
 - **The COVID-19 experiment**
- **The human impact**



Social Protections and Human Rights

- Everyone has a right to social security:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 22)
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 9)
- In delivering this right:
 - State parties must respect the principle of human dignity
 - Ensure benefits are **adequate** in amount and duration such that people can realise their rights to family protection and assistance, an **adequate** standard of living, and access to health care.



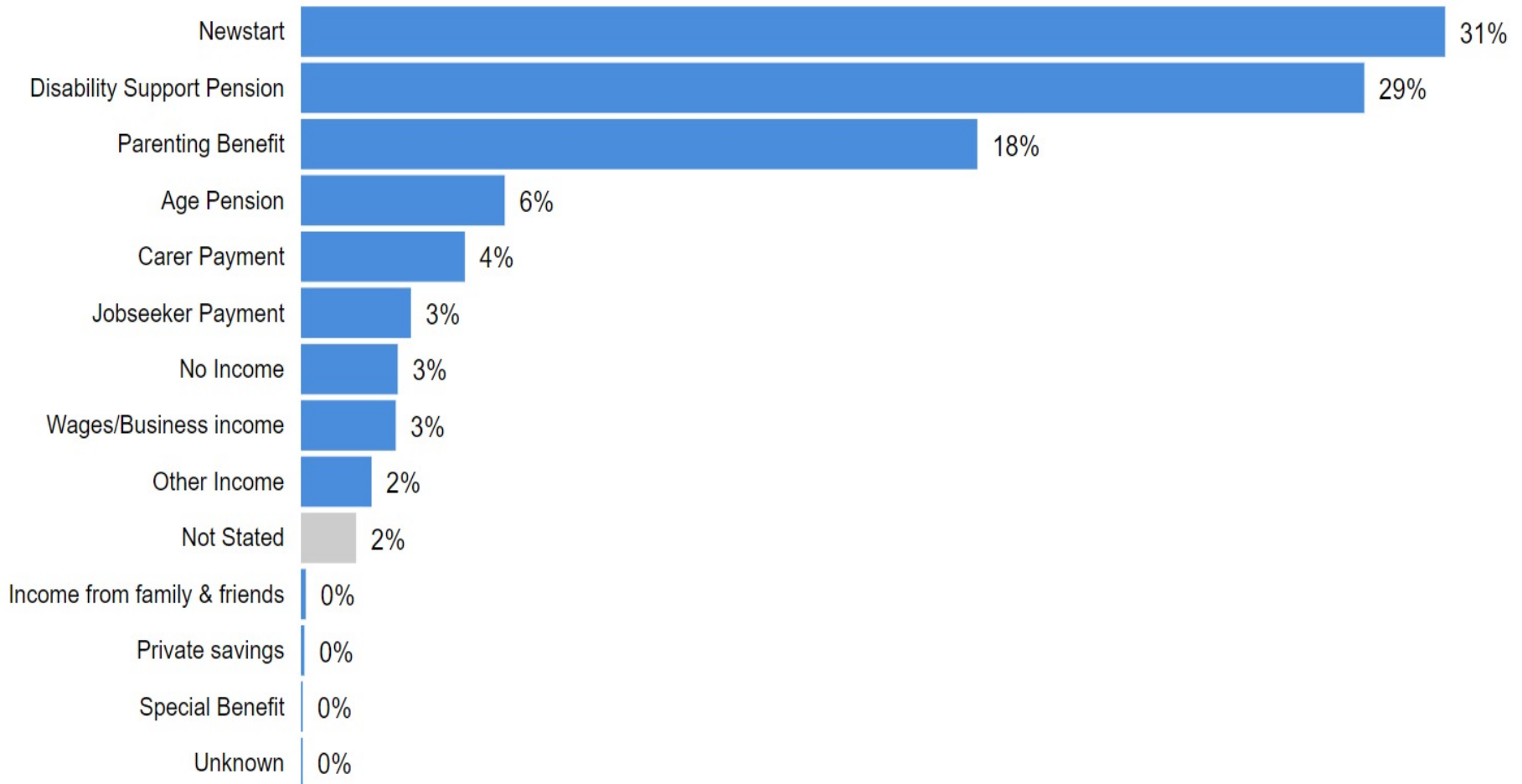
Emergency relief as a supplementary social protection

- **Emergency Relief aims to:**
 - Assist people to deal with financial crises in a way that maintains dignity
 - Refer people to other relevant services and encourage greater self-reliance
- **Vinnies NSW**
 - Delivered primarily by member volunteers
 - Supplemented by Society funds (allows greater flexibility)

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Pre-COVID: People who needed emergency relief





Pre-COVID: People who needed emergency relief

	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19
No of people on Newstart assisted	16,275	19,966	20,846	20,921	20,991
Total number of people assisted	51,480	61,013	61,598	61,672	61,888
Proportion of people assisted on Newstart	31.6%	32.7%	33.8%	33.9%	33.9%



Enter COVID...2020

April 2020: 1st Economic Support Payment - \$750
Coronavirus supplement - \$550/fortnight

July 2020: 2nd Economic Support Payment - \$750
(JobSeeker recipients not eligible)

End Sept 2020: Coronavirus supplement reduced to
\$250/fortnight

Nov 2020: 3rd Economic Support Payment - \$250
(JobSeeker recipients not eligible)

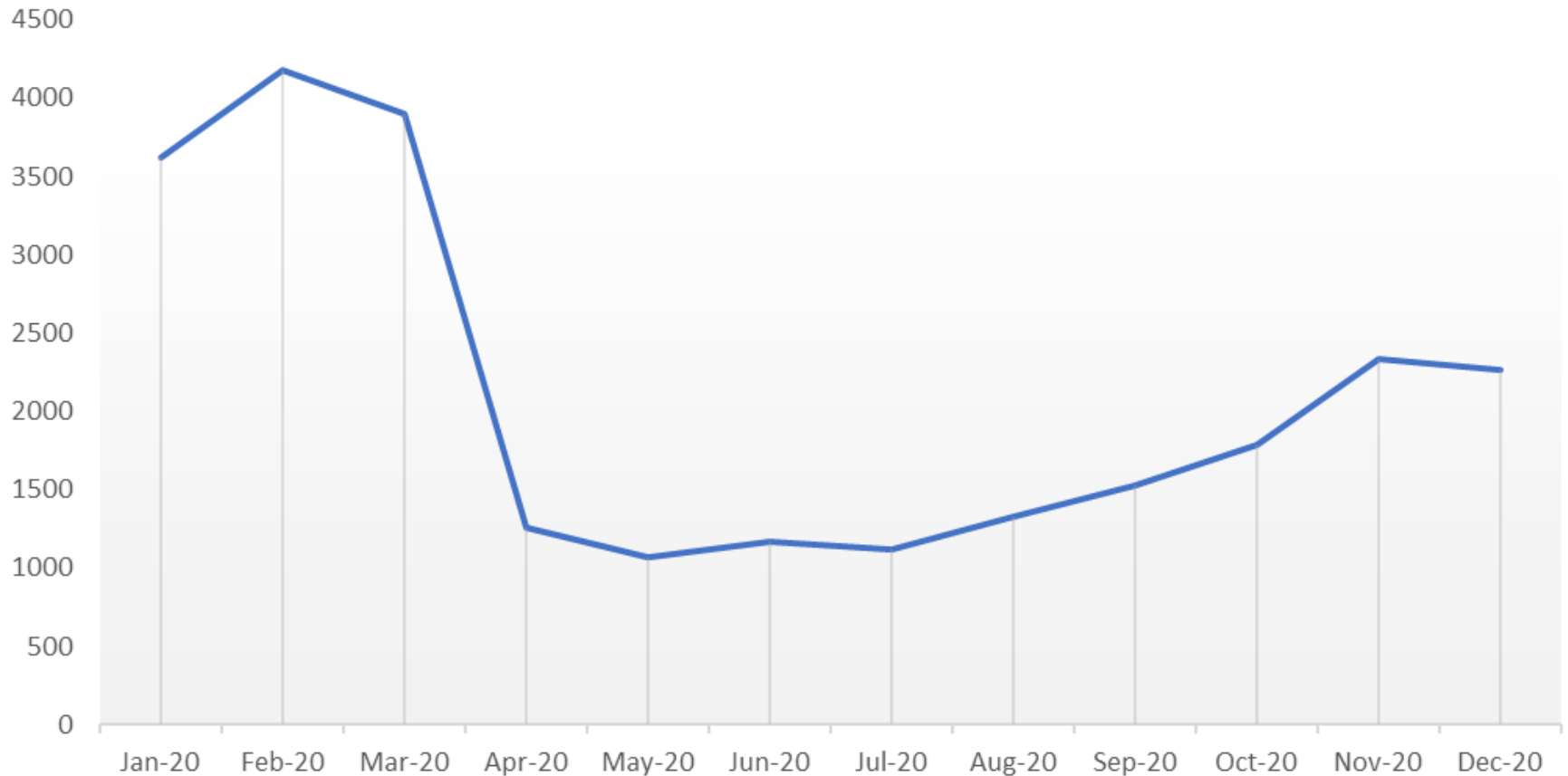
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Clients assisted in 2020



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No. of people on JobSeeker/Newstart assisted



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Enter COVID...2021

Jan 2021: Coronavirus supplement reduced to \$150/fortnight

Feb 2021: 4th Economic Support Payment - \$250 (JobSeeker recipients not eligible)

End March 2021: Coronavirus supplement ends
JobSeeker increased by \$50/fortnight

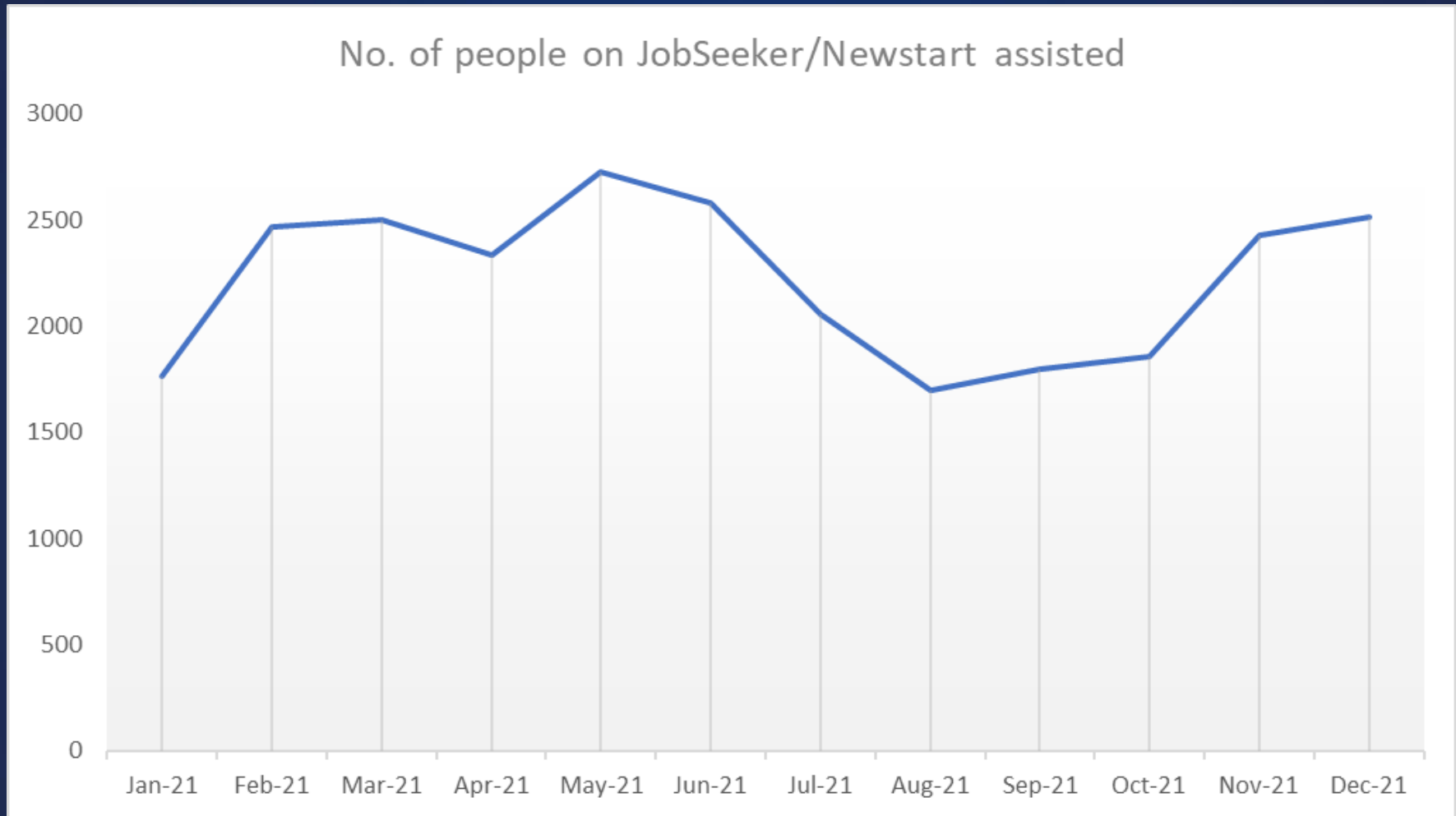
End July 2021: Some JobSeeker recipients become eligible for \$200/week COVID-19 Disaster Payments

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Clients assisted in 2021



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Summary

- JobSeeker is inadequate. People on JobSeeker often have no choice but to rely on charities for support.
- Clear and long-lasting impacts on people's wellbeing:
 - Financially
 - Physically
 - Socially and emotionally
- Also impacts:
 - Children and families
 - Communities

VINNIES REBUILDS RESTORES RENEWS



Adequate income support

...provides an ability to look outwards to improve the family circumstances, beyond the daily grind of a roof over our heads and food.

Being able to feed yourself properly and buy living essentials like a washing machine and food.

Not having the stress of how to come up with money for bills or birthday gifts.

...able to afford paying off long standing debts that increased interest over time.

Freedom to live like a human being.