

# media release

Young Workers Legal Service

Date: 25 August 2020

## **Paid pandemic leave - a win for young workers**

South Australia's Young Workers Legal Service has welcomed the announcement that a Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme will operate in South Australia immediately with payments of up to \$1,500 for casual and other eligible workers who are required to quarantine or care for someone in quarantine.

The YWLS has been urging the government to introduce a comprehensive scheme of paid pandemic leave since April.

The single most effective action the state government can take to protect the community from COVID-19 transmission is to ensure casual workers do not have to choose between putting food on the table or isolating to protect others from infection.

The scheme has a separate upfront "testing" payment of \$300 for workers in a cluster awaiting a coronavirus test result.

## **Quotes attributable to YWLS Coordinator Rachael Seaforth**

"Money for young workers who are saving lives and saving jobs by staying home and doing the right thing is welcome".

"This paid leave entitlement helps ensure young casual workers will not lose wages or risk their job to isolate or get tested when they need to.

"We congratulate the State government on protecting the livelihood of young casual workers and those without leave entitlements in order to protect the health of the whole community.

"We still want the Commonwealth government to introduce a national scheme that will cover all workers who need to get tested and isolate. That's how we ensure that this pandemic ends as quickly as possible with as few people infected as possible."

## **Background**

*Who is eligible?* A casual or full-time or part-time employee who can demonstrate they would have ordinarily worked and cannot as a result of the need to isolate and has no or insufficient entitlement to necessary paid leave.

*Who is not eligible?* Those receiving JobSeeker or JobKeeper during the period of self-isolation or those required to quarantine after returning from overseas and interstate.

*How to apply* Access the online application process here process here:

<https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/5f435c9fad9c58203ce3c894>