

IN HER OWN WORDS - LAINIE*

“We were separated but we still lived under the same roof because I didn’t have anywhere else to live and I couldn’t afford to rent on my own.

I contacted Centrelink to find out what I would be eligible for and they said that it would take six weeks for me to get a single parent pension. And I said to them, ‘okay, so what happens if I need to get out of the house quickly and I need some money to pay rent somewhere?’ And they said that they could offer like \$500, and I was absolutely baffled. I thought, ‘how do people leave?’ There must be so many women like me that are absolutely stuck.”

Source: Centre for Women’s Economic Safety

CASE STUDY - ALICE*

Alice is a woman in her 60s who has moved out of the former matrimonial home. She had not worked over the course of their marriage and she only had a few hundred dollars in her personal bank account at the time of separation. Prior to separation she had to ask her husband for money and account for her expenditure.

Alice has been homeless since separation. She couch surfs between friends and family. Her application for the Job Seeker Payment was rejected because of the asset value of her jointly owned home which was occupied by her estranged husband.

Source: Illawarra Legal Centre



IN HER OWN WORDS – DEB*

“He made me go on the single parent payment so that if he felt like not working, or if we had a fight or whatever, I’d have money. We’d often have a fight and he’d disappear for two days, go through his money and come back two days later and rely on my money. But I was being made to take the risk there; being with him and being on the single parenting pension and he’d threaten me, ‘well I’m going to go and tell Centrelink.’”

Source: Insight Exchange (DVSM)