



**FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS (FGFP) COALITION**  
**VICTORIA INCORPORATED A0061591N**

C/- AMWU  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Reception  
251 Queensberry Street  
Carlton South Vic 3053

8<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The Senator Anne Ruston,  
Minister for Families and of Social Services  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Mr Minister ,

I write on behalf of the Fair Go For Pensioners FGFP Coalition ,Victoria Incorporated, which is an independent non-profit coalition of community based organisations ,retired unionists and concerned individuals. The FGFP advocates for a better deal for age pensioners and other recipients of social security payments who depend on Government for income and other supportive services.

The FGFP is concerned that pensioners are increasingly falling deeper into poverty and the severe climatic changes impose additional and costly health burdens.

I request you ,Prime Minister to consider and support the FGFP claims as detailed below and include them in your coming 2020-2021 Federal budget .

These claims have been presented to the Federal Government over many years with hardly any significant positive outcome, apart from 2012 when pensions were raised from 25.5% of the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings to 27.7% of MTAW.

We categorically reject the often given explanation that periodic CPI adjustments make up for the huge . rises in the cost of living eg energy , food, housing, health and aged care. In terms of national priorities the FGFP believes the needs of pensioners should come well ahead of huge tax concessions to a small minority of rich companies and their institutions. The time is well overdue to return something substantial and immediate that is \$100 a week pension increase -to the veterans of the workforce now also making up the largest component of the army of volunteers , who suffer financial hardship ,poverty and inequality.

We note in particular the OECD reports ' Pensions at a glance' that Australia spends only 4.2% of its GDP on publicly funded pensions as against the OECD average of 7.5%.That there are nearly 2.5 million aged pensioners and that one in third of these pensioners are born in non English speaking Countries.

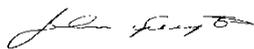
The FGFP calls on the Government to withdraw the proposed "Integrity Payment" legislation to increase the period of Age Pension eligibility from 10 years to 15 years, double the waiting time for payment to those with small bank savings from 13 weeks to 26 weeks and to cut pension allowances to pensioners visiting country of birth and loved ones. These measures intend to "save" the Government \$300 million at the expense of the most vulnerable people in Australia.

The FGFP looks forward to meeting with you and or your relevant ministers to discuss our claims and hopefully have your support.

#### CLAIMS

1. That the Federal Government increases the Age Pension rate from 27.7% of the male average weekly earnings (MTAWE) to 35% of the MTAWE over a medium term (i.e 4 years) .
2. That all income support payments be indexed on a quarterly basis.
3. That the retirement age reverts to 65 years of age.
4. Medicare to include optical, hearing , dental and all pharmaceutical services . These services and centre link information be readily available in person to person and delivered in the appropriate cultures and languages
5. The FGFP calls for the inadequate Newstart Allowance to be raised to at least \$100 per week for the single basic rate.

Yours sincerely



John Speight  
President,  
Fair Go for Pensioners (FGFP)  
M: 0425 753 754  
E: John Speight <jwspeight@gmail.com>

