



STATEMENT OF CLAIMS TO OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS COALITION

The following *Statement of Claims* are to be presented to our elected Ministers and Representatives of the Victorian and Federal Parliaments on behalf of the Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition.

We call on our respective ministers and parliamentarians to recognise the significant hardship facing senior pensioners today as they struggle with rising cost of living issues.

We also note that many seniors have not had the opportunity to build superannuation nest eggs like today's workforce and are forced to rely on a very small pension.

We ask the following from our Federal and State Governments

FEDERAL

1. That the Federal Government increases the pension rate from 25% of average male weekly earnings to 35% of average male weekly earnings.
2. That proper and improved culturally appropriate healthcare measures for pensioners are prioritised, including medical, dental, optical, hearing and pharmaceutical services. The Pharmaceutical Benefits for pensioners also needs to be increased.
3. That the level of funding for aged care services, including culturally appropriate services, is significantly increased and extended to meet the growing demand in this area.
4. That our pensions are not restricted due to overseas travel to visit loved ones.
5. That a thorough review of the means test and GST impact for pensioners and concessions should be undertaken to ensure that pensioners are not losing out.
6. That strong national regulation and/or legislation be implemented to protect older people using or considering reverse mortgages.

STATE

1. That the former Victorian State Government pensioner motor vehicle registration concession discount be reintroduced.
2. That utility concession rates be standardised throughout the year, in recognition that cooling systems in summer are as important to seniors' health and well being as heating systems in winter.
3. That there should be an increase in the pensioner concession rates for utilities and council fees.
4. That public transport be made free for pensioners.

We ask that these issues are addressed as a matter of urgency as many senior pensioners are suffering significant financial hardship which affects their general health and well-being.

From the attached members of the Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition.