



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Let's give older Australians a social bonus

Member for New England, Tony Windsor has come out in support of aged people in relation to the distribution of surplus budgetary funds predicted to be over \$20 BILLION over the next five years.

Mr Windsor said that he was finding more and more people on pensions and Independent Retirees who were finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

There is also the issue of aged care accommodation and the provision of services to the elderly in country communities such as community transport.

“As a nation, we should be pleased that through economic growth and management there are surplus funds available, but we should act responsibly with the distribution of those funds and not use them to buy short term advantage at the polls.

I believe we should use some of those funds to assist the aged in our communities through an increase in the financial benefits that they receive and greater investment in aged care accommodation.

I think it is time that as a society, we had a good look at the allocation of funding.

We should reward those who were prepared to defend the nation in war and those who created the prosperity that has allowed our economic managers to achieve surplus budgets.

Its disgraceful we have people who are in their 80s who were prepared to defend our nation on our home shores giving up up to 5 years of their lives but who did not travel overseas to face the enemy who are not entitled to a gold card to assist them in their time of need as they did for the nation in our time of need.

How's that for political hypocrisy when one of the major issues of today is border security,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor points out that the political process with its instant replay capacity through modern media technology has to a certain extent rewarded those who have the capacity to mobilise public opinion.

“The real measure of a society is how we treat our young and our old but the political ‘action’ has been around those in the middle obviously because that is the subset of society that determines the outcomes of elections.

The group that is finding it extremely difficult are those without any superannuation or those people who received significantly less superannuation in their retirement years than those who are retiring today.

Let's give older Australians a social bonus – they've certainly earned it,” Mr Windsor said.

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