



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Seniors needs brought to Canberra

The needs of older Australians were brought to the attention of the Federal Parliament today in Canberra when National Seniors presented their "Election Priorities".

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor attended the presentation by Chairman Everald Compton and CEO Michael O'Neill and concurs with their policy positions.

"National Seniors" has over 300,000 members making it the largest organisation of older Australians in the country.

"The Election Priorities put forward by the National Seniors organisation is a well thought out and constructive document that is not asking for the moon and the stars for our older Australians but simply asking for fairness and recognition of the contribution that Seniors have made in the past and can continue to make in the future.

Senior Australians are a very valuable part of our community and deserve better treatment through the areas that National Seniors have identified in their document," Mr Windsor said.

Areas identified of priority include improving Commonwealth/State relations for better cohesion across government; Financial security to support older people in their retirement; Access to health services including the National Oral Health Plan and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and associated safety net thresholds of low income seniors; Ageing at home support; investment in Residential Aged Care facilities and staffing; Elder abuse prevention; Adequate safety nets to meet rising living costs on low income; Realise the benefits of superannuation making it easier to understand and to be able to contribute to if older people continue to work; Grandparent support involved in intergenerational care; a National Transport Concession Scheme that eliminates inequities across borders; Community connection for seniors through access to low cost broadband and computer training; Environmental legacy to maintain a sustainable planet and; Employment incentives to encourage mature age workers to remain at work rather than retire.

"Our Seniors have a proven record of contribution to our communities and we need to allow and in fact encourage our Seniors to continue to do so through government policies and programs that provide incentive and reward for their efforts.

Many Seniors enjoy their community involvement and I would encourage the Government and Opposition to look very closely at their Election Priorities and see the great benefits that could be had by addressing them," Mr Windsor said.

More details on the website www.nationalseniors.com.au

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