



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# Boost to pensions will bring welcome relief But Pensioner's Rally still on this Friday

The boost to welfare payments announced by the Prime Minister today will be a welcome relief to pensioners, carers and families with dependent children according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor is particularly pleased that the Government will make the payments before Christmas.

“Pensioners have been doing it very tough as the cost of living has increased faster than their pensions.

This has put great pressure on these people to meet their needs with effectively less money to do so.

This has been the case with all categories of pensioner whether they be aged pensioners, disability pensioners or Veterans so the lump sum payment before Christmas is indeed good news,” Mr Windsor said.

In welcoming the Government's package, Mr Windsor said that he was keen to see the Government's report into Australia's tax system recommend an ongoing increase in the pension to continue the benefit at the equivalent higher amount.

“Whilst I welcome the lump sum payment to pensioners announced today, I look forward to the Government's report into Australia's Tax system including pensions recommend a rise in the pension by at least the equivalent weekly amount of the lump sum, a figure of about \$35 per week for single pensioners and about \$26 per week per person for couples.

It is important that the pensioners' ongoing plight be recognised by the Government and the community and that they receive the ongoing support in next year's budget,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has confirmed that the Pensioners' Rally he is organising in Tamworth this Friday will proceed as planned.

“The Pensioners' Rally in Tamworth this coming Friday will proceed as planned.

The Prime Minister's announcement today is very welcome but pensioners need to maintain their pressure on the Government to ensure that they are remembered during the 2009 Budget preparation.

I therefore urge all those people who intended to attend the Rally on Friday in Tamworth to still come along and let their views be known,” Mr Windsor said.

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