

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert
20 March 2008

Older Australians still need helping hand

Senator Rachel Siewert today renewed the Australian Greens' call for a \$30 a week increase in the single aged pension.

"The Greens welcome the findings of the Senate inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians. A key recommendation from this report is the planned review of the base pension level, as it relates to the standard of living for retired Australians."

"Australia's 2 million pensioners haven't had a substantial increase in their pensions since 1993," said Senator Siewert.

"As Senator Bob Brown has said previously, the 1.2 million Australians who rely solely on the aged pension are the forgotten battlers. A weekly income of \$268.85 is not enough to ensure a decent standard of living for pensioners and it must be increased in the May budget."

"Given that it will take some time for the review to be completed, the Greens believe the Government should recognise the hardships already placed on older Australians, and increase the pension to account for the rising cost of living, until an effective base rate can be established," she concluded.

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