



Margaret May MP

Federal Member for McPherson
Shadow Minister for Ageing

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MAY WELCOMES CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR PENSIONERS

The Coalition supports the Government's announcement that it will – FINALLY – provide some relief for Australia's pensioners.

"This is the Christmas bonus I first called for on 16 May this year," Margaret said, "which the Prime Minister rejected out of hand.

"I'm sure Australia's struggling pensioners will welcome this one-off payment in time for Christmas, particularly given rising grocery prices, rising fuel prices and the current climate of global economic instability.

"I'm sure they are also wondering why they are receiving a one-off payment as a fiscal measure designed to stimulate the economy, rather than due to a sense of social compassion from the Prime Minister and the Treasurer.

"However, the Prime Minister refuses to allay the legitimate fears held by many pensioners for their long-term financial stability.

"During Question Time today, the Prime Minister was asked by the Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull, if he would guarantee a rise in the base rate of pensions in the next Budget.

"The Prime Minister failed to provide such a guarantee.

"Despite admitting that it would be impossible to live on the pension, the Prime Minister and members of his government have again refused to guarantee that any future reform to the pension system will include an increase in the base rate of pension.

"Today's announcement of a lump sum payment of \$1,400 to single pensioners and \$2,100 to pensioner couples is a welcome start from the Government, but pensioners also need reform that will ensure their future is not a bleak existence," Margaret said.

Media Contact: Josh Rosner (02) 6277 4716 or 0429 493 296