

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS TO OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FAIR GO FOR PENSIONERS COALITION

The following *Statement of Claims* are to be presented to our elected Ministers and Representatives of the Victorian and Federal Parliaments on behalf of the Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition.

We call on our respective ministers and parliamentarians to recognise the significant hardship facing senior pensioners today as they struggle with rising cost of living issues.

We also note that many seniors have not had the opportunity to build superannuation nest eggs like today's workforce and are forced to rely on a very small pension.

We ask the following from our State and Federal Governments

FEDERAL

1. That the Federal Government increases the pension rate from 27.7% of average weekly earnings to 35% of average weekly earnings until a more appropriate pension measurement is developed.
2. That proper and improved healthcare measures for pensioners are prioritised, including medical, dental, optical, hearing, pharmaceutical and culturally appropriate services.
3. That the level of funding for aged care services, including culturally appropriate services, is significantly increased and extended to meet the growing demand in this area.
4. That our pensions are not restricted due to overseas travel to visit loved ones.
5. That legislation/regulations be enacted to protect older people considering taking out reverse mortgages.
6. That a thorough review of the means test and GST impact for pensioners and concessions should be undertaken to ensure that pensioners are not losing out.

STATE

1. That the former State Government pensioner motor vehicle registration concession discount be reintroduced.
2. That utility concession rates be standardised throughout the year, in recognition that cooling systems in summer are as important to seniors' health and well being as heating systems in winter.
3. That there should be an increase in the pensioner concession rates for utilities and council fees.
4. That public transport for pensioners should be free or at least free during off peak hours.

We ask that these issues are addressed as a matter of urgency as many senior pensioners are suffering significant financial hardship which affects their general health and well-being.

Fair Go the Pensioners Coalition

Victoria

Fair Go for Pensioners' Coalition works with the Australian and Victorian Governments to ensure justice for pensioners. Its members include Council on the Ageing (Victoria) Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; 120 seniors' groups; Amalgamated Manufacturing Workers Union (Retired Members Division), Maritime Workers Union of Australia (Retired Members Division) and church and community groups.

In 2007 Coalition members presented the case for pension reform to parliamentary members of all major parties. A meeting of 800 pensioners received the report of these deputations; expressed their concern at lack of response from the then government and opposition and charged the Coalition to continue its work until justice is achieved.

In 2010 its three co-convenors are:

Frank Cherry,

Amalgamated Manufacturing Workers Union (Retired Members Division)

George Catsourakis

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

Patricia Reeve, Council on the Ageing Victoria

Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition may be contacted through

Council on the Ageing (Victoria)

98 Elizabeth Street Melbourne 3000

Phone: 03 96544443

Email: seniors@cotavic.org.au