
Re: Website - Contact Enquiry

1 message

Greg Jarvis <gregjarvis5@gmail.com>

Sun, May 19, 2024 at 5:57 PM

To: "Doyle, Mary (MP Office)" <Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au>

Richard,

Further to your email dated 24th April 2024, could you please explain what is meant by;

'The Albanese Labor Government initially doubled the work bonus as a temporary measure, this has since been made permanent'

I don't recall the work bonus threshold doubling at all, my understanding is the Work Bonus was introduced in 2009 @ \$250 p/fortnight threshold and increased to \$300 in July 2019 without any review since.

I look forward to your advice in the very near future.

Regards

Greg

On Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 10:59 AM Doyle, Mary (MP Office) <Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Greg,

I have received some advice regarding your enquiry.

The Albanese Labor Government initially doubled the work bonus as a temporary measure, this has since been made permanent. The media releases can be found here: [Strengthening incentives to work for pensioners and income support recipients | Department of Social Services Ministers \(dss.gov.au\)](#) and here: [Getting more Australians back into work | Department of Social Services Ministers \(dss.gov.au\)](#)

As of 1 January 2024:

All pensioners over Age Pension age and eligible Veterans will have a maximum Work Bonus balance limit of \$11,800, up from \$7800.

All new Age Pension recipients, approximately 195,000 each year, will have a starting Work Bonus income bank balance of \$4000 rather than \$0, giving them added incentive to maintain a connection with the workforce when they first transition to the pension.

- This Bill will enable new social security pensioners over Age Pension age, and certain veterans' entitlement recipients over qualifying age, to benefit from a \$4,000 Work Bonus starting balance (rather than \$0), as well as permanently increasing the maximum income bank balance limit from \$7,800 to \$11,800. These amendments will support pensioners who wish to continue doing some work, or to re-enter the workforce, as they will be able to earn more before the pension income test is applied.
- This Bill builds on the temporary Work Bonus measure – which was an outcome of the Jobs and Skills summit. It aligns with the Employment White Paper's focus on supporting people to engage in work as life evolves.
 - Under the temporary Work Bonus measure, which runs from 1 December 2022 until 31 December 2023, all pensioners over Age Pension age, including new entrants, received both an upfront one-off credit of \$4,000 to their Work Bonus balance and an increase to their maximum income bank balance limit from \$7,800 to \$11,800.
- This Bill will provide ongoing financial incentives to encourage this cohort to remain in or take up some paid employment and aligns with the Government's commitment to address workforce shortages by ensuring individuals are supported to take up paid employment where they are able and willing to do so.
- This measure is wholly beneficial and supports pensioners who choose to engage in the labour force. New recipients of the Age Pension will benefit from the permanent \$4,000 starting balance, as data indicates this cohort is more likely to work.

These changes also mean existing pensioners who are yet to use any credits over \$7,800 will not lose these credits on 1 January 2024.

For context, the New Zealand Government provides a universal, non-means tested pension, but the pension as well as any other income a person receives through work or investments, is taxable from the first dollar, even for those with no other sources of income.

Importantly, New Zealand does not have compulsory employer-funded superannuation.

Let us know if you have any further questions regarding this.

Kind regards

Richard Farr

Electorate Officer

Office of Mary Doyle MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ASTON | PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA


Electorate Office: Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South, Wurundjeri Country, VIC 3152

Parliament House: P.O BOX 6022, Canberra, Ngunnawal Country, ACT 2600

Melbourne: (03) 9887 3890 | E: Richard.Farr@aph.gov.au

Keep up to date with Mary Doyle MP & what is happening in Aston



 Our office acknowledges the Bunurong & Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land and water which the electorate of Aston encompasses, and pay our respect to culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

* Please consider the environment before you print this email.

From: Greg Jarvis <gregjarvis5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Doyle, Mary (MP Office) <Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Website - Contact Enquiry

Richard,

Thank you for your response, I look forward to discussing in more detail in the near future.

Regards

Greg

On Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 2:46 PM Doyle, Mary (MP Office) <Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Greg,

Thank you for contacting Mary Doyle MP regarding the Work Bonus program and working after pension age.

I have reached out on your behalf to the Minister and the Department to assist with a reply and will pass this information on.

Let us know if you have any further enquiries in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Richard Farr
Electorate Officer

Office of Mary Doyle MP

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From: no-reply=marydoyle.com.au@mg.linas.net <no-reply=marydoyle.com.au@mg.linas.net> **On Behalf Of** no-reply@marydoyle.com.au

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 12:50 PM

To: Doyle, Mary (MP Office) <Mary.Doyle.MP@aph.gov.au>

Subject: Website - Contact Enquiry

FirstName	Greg
LastName	Jarvis
Mobile	0407047797
Email	gregjarvis5@gmail.com
Postcode	3156
Address	7 Flower St., Ferntree Guilly
RequestUrl	http://www.marydoyle.com.au/Umbraco/Api/GenericForm/Submit
IP	120.159.72.221, 108.162.226.5
Created	4/22/2024 2:49:48 AM
Comments	Mary, This is my third attempt to contact you, the only reply I've had via a follow up phone call to your office was that you were too busy. So, I ask again, Could you please explain your thoughts on the future of the Pension Work Bonus and if Labor will support an increase or dropping the limit altogether. • The work bonus is not subject to CPI and has not been reviewed since 1st July 2019, nearing 5 years. • The 'BANK CAP Increase' – not earning increase, of

\$4,000 actually worth \$2,000 less tax, was a one off and promoted with such confusion that the National Seniors reported an allowable income increase to \$453 per fortnight – Wrong. • Couples assets and income are combined when assessing, however the Work Bonus is not. • The current system is a disincentive to work and promotes a cash economy. • Politicians are not subject to such restrictions. The current system; Example 25 hours week @ \$40 p/hr Earn \$1,000 p/week \$2,000 per fortnight Tax \$ 324 Net \$1,676 Pension Deduction \$ 850 Net pay \$ 820 or \$16.40 p/hr net I'm not asking for the New Zealand system but surely an urgent genuine review is warranted. I await your response in anticipations. Regards Greg Greg Jarvis 0407 047 797

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