

Petition presented and referred

1 message

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To: gregjarvis5@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 1:39 PM



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

01 July 2024

Greg Jarvis
7 Flower Street
Ferntree Gully VIC 3156 AU

Dear Petitioner,

This is to provide you with an update on your petition.

Petition number: EN6227 *(Please quote in future correspondence)*
Date submitted: 12/05/2024
Number of signatures: 109

Terms:

Reason: Increase the Work Bonus providing Aged Pensioners incentive to re-enter the workforce and ease the current skills shortage at no cost to Government, without disadvantaging those unable to work. Why: The current Work Bonus system discourages Pensioners to return to the workforce. A Pensioner earnings gained from work over \$150 p/week is reduced by 50%, this has not changed since July 2019. Reduce a black cash economy. Australian average wage 2009/10 to 2024 88% increase Pension Sept 2009 to March 2024 66% increase Work Bonus Sept 2009 to March 2024 20% increase The \$4,000 Work Bonus Cap increase had an actual one off value of \$2,000, not enough to entice Aged Pensioners to change their lifestyle. 70,892 Aged Pensioners earned at least \$250 in the last fortnight of March 2023. This number would increase to 99,691 if pre-covid levels were restored. Increasing the threshold from \$300 to \$500 p/fortnight and restoring participation to pre-covid levels could realise a saving to Government of \$2,880,000 or \$70 Million including GST on additional spending. AIM: To immediately change the Work Bonus system providing Aged Pensioners incentive to re-enter the workforce and ease the current skills shortage at no cost to Government without disadvantaging those unable to work.

Request: We therefore ask the House to • Increase Work Bonus Threshold from \$300 per fortnight to \$500 per fortnight. • Index Work Bonus Threshold in line with Aged Pension review every March and September. • Consider combining Couples Work Bonus balance.

The petition was considered by the Petitions Committee and certified as meeting the requirements for petitions. It was presented to the House on 01 July 2024 and has been referred to the Minister for Social Services. Under the petition requirements, Ministers are asked to respond to a referred petition within 90 days.

The petition details can be found on the Parliament's website at:
<https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions>.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in petitioning the House of Representatives.

Yours sincerely

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

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2 attachments

 **noname**
27K

 **noname**
3K