

Activate our Dormant Workforce by restructuring the Work Bonus System

Unlike previous Campaigns advocating the illumination of Income Test entirely, 'Fair Go for Working Pensioners' is pushing to change unjust elements of the current system.

Problem

- Working Pensioners have their Pension reduced by 50 cents in every dollar earned over \$300 per fortnight (\$150 per week)
- The \$300 threshold is not indexed and has not changed since July 2019
- Centrelink's reporting to the ATO inflates the taxable income for the Working member of a couple

Solution

- Immediately increase the threshold to at least \$500
- Index the threshold
- Allow the Pension reduction to the non working member of a couple to be claimable as a deduction from the workers taxable income, retrospectively for three years.

Benefits

- If increasing and indexing is sufficient to restore pre Covid participation rates could result in;
 - An annual saving to Government of \$200,000,000 every year in reduced Pension payments, increased PAYG Tax and GST revenue
 - An additional 20,000 experienced workers re-enter the legitimate workforce easing the current skills shortage
 - Help Pensioners Help themselves
 - Improve standard of living
 - Enhance sense of worth and mental health
 - Continuing employment for older Australians provides financial and non-financial benefits for individuals and brings substantial benefit to the broader community

Action to date – links to correspondence www.workingpensioners.com.au/news

- 14th Feb 2022 Alan Tudge MP, Member for Aston - email
- 31st Dec 2023 Phillip Coorey, Fairfax Media - email
- 18th Jan 2024 National Seniors, email correct article stating \$453 threshold
- 22nd Apr 2024 Mary Doyle MP, website contact
- 24th Apr 2024 response from Mary Doyle's office. "...doubled the work bonus this has since been made permanent" – **Wrong**
- 24th Apr 2024 Mary Doyle MP, email requesting clarification of response
- 12th May 2024 Petition EN6227 presented to the House of Representatives
- 15th Jul 2024 Amanda Rishworth, email Tax payable on Pension deductions
- 16th Jul 2024 Jim Chalmers MP, Ministerial Correspondence
Tax payable on Pension deductions
- 23rd Jul 2024 Meeting with Angus Taylor, Senator Sarah Henderson and

- 29th Jul 2024 **Mr Manny Cicchiello**
Amanda Rishworth, rejection of petition EN6227, standard cut & paste answers
- 31st Jul 2024 **Amanda Rishworth, response to communication 15th July – 2 pages of fluff**
- 31st Jul 2024 **Amanda Rishworth, email requesting clarification**
- 8th Aug 2024 **Jim Chalmers, via Doug Watkins**
response deflecting issue with reference to the income free area, SAPTO and other irrelevant subjects
- 8th Aug 2024 **Doug Watkins, Ministerial Correspondence – clarification?**
- 30th Aug 2024 **Industry Superfunds, email please correct misleading article**
- 18th Sep 2024 **Industry Superfunds, email, thank you, issue now resolved**
- 21st Sep 2024 **Select Committee on the Cost of Living submission**
- 7th Nov 2024 **Select Committee on the Cost of Living, submission accepted and authorized, submission number 236**
- 20th Oct 2024 **Amanda Rishworth, clarification of rejection to EN6227**
- 14th Jun 2025 **Tanya Plibersek, Government Contact Form**
Introducing Working Pensioner campaign.
- 15th Jun 2025 **Australian Taxation Office, request private ruling on claiming wife's Pension reduction as a deduction on my Taxable Income**
- 16th Jun 2025 **Australian Taxation Office, "....the reduction in both your pension and your wife's pension is not an allowable deduction....."**
- 22nd Jun 2025 **Mary Doyle MP, email re inflated taxable income**
- 7th Jul 2025 **Mary Doyle MP, requested face to face meeting with Mary.**
- 14th Jul 2025 **Jim Chalmers MP, Follow-up from previous correspondence**
- 14th Jul 2025 **Senator Tyron Whitten, email of support, PHON policy release**
- 22nd Jul 2025 **Mary Doyle MP, via Jacob O'Brien, Electorate Officer**
 - "...as the Treasury is responsible for administering the ITA Act, **you may wish to contact them** with any further questions on this matter."
 - "....For you reference, the example **you provided may be overestimating** the size of the reductions that would result from one member of a couple earning \$28,000...."
- 22nd Jul 2025 **Mary Doyle MP, via Jacob O'Brien, Electorate Officer**
 - Previous communication with the Treasury achieved nothing
 - What do you base your claim of overestimating the size of Pension reductions
 - Re affirmed the need for a face to face meeting with Mary
- 22nd July 2025 **Star Mail Newspaper, Article by Callum Ludwig**
- 25th July 2025 **Submission Australian Government Economic Reform Roundtable**
Work Bonus System Reform: Unlocking Australia's Aged Pensioner Workforce
- 26th Jul 2025 **Senator Kerryne Liddle, Shadow Minister for Social Services**

Urgent Reform for Work Bonus System for Aged Pensioners

AIM:

To immediately change the 'Work Bonus' system providing Aged Pensioners incentive to re-enter the workforce and ease the current skills shortage at minimal cost to Government without disadvantaging those unable to work.