



Seniors

Policy Statement

Mature aged Australians should be classified as seniors and accorded appropriate retirement Benefits.

All Australian Citizens of retirement age, who have been gainfully employed for a minimum of 10 years in Australia and paid their tax accordingly, should be entitled to free health and medical treatment and the full pension without assets test.

They should also be encouraged to pursue an additional source of retirement income to supplement their future years.

Policy

All Australians over 55 should be classified as seniors.

Retirement age for women and men are set at 60 with an option and tax-incentive to retire at 65. Self funded retirees are to be 55 or over.

All seniors, upon reaching retirement age, who have contributed by having paid income tax in Australia for a minimum of 10 years, will be entitled to a full pension without assets test.

One Nation will introduce a National Superannuation Fund, in competition to private funds, to which all will be encouraged to pay contributions.

This will create an independent additional source of income to supplement the Social Security Pension.

Introduction of pensions for widows and widowers with dependent children.

Free health and medical care (including basic dental care) for all Australians with previous qualifications after age 65.

Senior Card holder discounts on all Public Services (except Postal Services) eg, rates, licences, transport, phone, registration, passport etc.

Family home, plus one additional property, are value capped at purchase price to protect owners from being forced to divest of assets as their capacity to earn extra income is limited.

Background Briefing

Seniors

The Australian Government currently categorises seniors as “aged” under the portfolios of Benefits & Payments (Social Security) & Health. In 1976 Australia had 1.3 million people at age 65 or over.

By 2016 this will have risen to 3.6 million or 16% of the population.

Seniors during their working life have contributed much to this country and many will continue to do so.

All must be entitled to financial security in retirement.

The Pension swindle

(From the Old Age Pension Bill of 1908 to the Aged Care Act of 1997)

The Bill of 1908 is included in the powers under section 51 (XXIII) of the Commonwealth Constitution.

It was non-contributory and paid out of Consolidated Revenue.

The most important amendment occurred in 1945 (Act 39&40 of 1945).

A contribution was to be collected under a certain scale. 1945 also saw the introduction of PAYE and the Social Services Contribution Assessment Act 1945-1947.

This collection was made easy by inclusion on the Income Tax Return Form. This procedure was followed until 1965 when the Social Services Contribution was dropped. The Levy was not.

Incomes were rising towards 1950 and minor changes were made which allowed the decrease in the rate of progression on several occasions whilst the maximum of contribution was raised in July 1949.

Under Menzies tax reform package, the contribution and tax collection merged. This was brought about by Act #52 of 1950. The government could now impose taxation as far down the income scale as the Social Services Contribution.

The National Welfare Act#65 of 1954 decreed that appropriation would be made out of consolidated revenue which would be equal to the amount paid out of the National Welfare Fund.

Thus it put to rest the idea that people were contributing to their age pension which was to be paid as their right without any means test.

This final amendment ensured the end to relate payments for pensions to amounts collected.

From 1910 onwards pensions were paid out of taxation from the people.

From 1946 pensions were now being paid by compulsory contributions to the newly established Welfare Fund.

The aged pension was since then self funded and indeed is today.

Actuaries have calculated that the non-means-tested entitlement due to each retiree today is in excess of \$400 per week.

It is a blatant lie to say that today's taxpayers are funding the pensions of retirees.

To add insult to injury, Keating added a means test.



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