

## Federal election 2019: Labor policies for seniors

### Fix Pension Poverty

- NBN – will encourage more older people to connect to the NBN by implementing affordability measures and digital literacy initiatives; will establish an NBN Service Guarantee to set service standards for fault repair time frames.
- Dental – will give pensioners and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders access to \$1,000 worth of dental services every two years. This will include examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride treatment, fillings, root canals, extractions, periodontal treatment and dentures.
- Rental housing – will build 250,000 new affordable rental homes over ten years in partnership with the community housing sector.

### Address aged care deficiencies

- Home care – will investigate interventions to ensure those most in-need are prioritised for home care; will investigate how to improve access to home care packages and increase staffing levels and skills.
- Training – will provide opportunities through TAFE for up to 20,000 aged care workers to obtain or improve qualifications.
- Workforce strategy – will speed up implementation of the *Matter of Care* workforce strategy to address inadequate staffing in aged care.
- Nursing – will ensure there is a registered nurse present, on site, 24 hours a day in residential aged care facilities.
- Staffing and skills mix – will publish workforce skill mix at every residential aged care facility.
- GPs – will provide incentives for GPs to do home visits and provide services in residential aged care.
- Dementia – will make dementia care a national priority; will improve aged care staff training to improve understanding of dementia, including scholarships for nurses and carers to undertake specialist dementia care training; will remove complex and multiple interactions with government agencies for Australians with dementia.

### Maintain fairness in retirement incomes

- Dividend imputation – will remove franking credit refunds for self-funded retirees, exempting only those with a self-managed fund with at least one pensioner before 28 March 2018.
- Superannuation non-concessional contributions cap – will lower the annual non-concessional contributions cap to \$75,000.
- High Income Superannuation Contribution threshold – will lower the threshold from \$250,000 to \$200,000.
- Voluntary superannuation contributions – will reverse the introduction of catch-up concessional contributions and changes to tax deductibility for personal superannuation contributions.
- Superannuation Guarantee – will phase out the \$450 per month minimum income threshold for eligibility for the Superannuation Guarantee from 1 July 2020; will pay the Superannuation Guarantee on Paid Parental Leave and Dad and Partner Pay payments from 1 July 2020.

- Self-Managed Superannuation Funds – will limit direct borrowing by Self-Managed Superannuation Funds.

## Arrest rising health costs Health

- Hospital funding – will restore funding for hospital services (including an elective surgery blitz to address waiting times for knee, hip and cataract surgeries).
- Cancer care – will address out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients by providing free scans, consultations and cheaper medicines.
- Emergency departments – will upgrade and expand emergency departments and employ more doctors, nurses and health workers in emergency.
- Medicare rebates – will remove the Medicare freeze from 1 July 2019 (Coalition will also).
- Private health insurance – will cap private health price increases at two per cent for two years.

## Protect pensioners from future rises in energy costs

- Electricity prices – will introduce the default market offer for electricity with regulated price (Coalition will also).
- Solar Batteries – will offer rebates of up to \$2,000 for households with a gross annual income of less than \$180,000 from 1 January 2020 when installing a battery system.
- National Energy Guarantee – will pursue bipartisan support for the National Energy Guarantee mechanism to lower prices and improve reliability.

## Reduce Centrelink wait times

- Centrelink – will hire 1,200 new permanent, full time Medicare and Centrelink staff.

## Enhance elder abuse protections

- Elder abuse – will speed up progress of recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission Report.

## Other

- Mature age employment – will offer a 30 per cent tax deduction for small businesses for up to five new workers' salaries for their first year of employment for people aged under 25, over 55, or who are carers returning to the workforce.
- Newstart – will review the adequacy of Newstart.