

**NSA News: Boost to pension and other payments....**

On 20Sept., the Age Pension rate increase with several other payments affecting older people . How will you be impacted?

The full rate paid to a single pensioner will go up from \$1, 064 to \$ 1,096.70 and from \$1,604 to \$1,653.40 for couples. This comes as inflation, as measured by the CPI, dropped to 4.9% in July 2023. If you're a part pensioner, the increase will be proportional to your existing payment. Pension increases occur twice a year, on 20 March and 20 Sept. Income limits for eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card are also increasing as a result of indexation, by \$5,400 to \$ 95,400 per annum for singles and by \$8,640 to \$152,640 for couples. With deeming rates frozen for 2 years to June 2024, more self-funded retirees could now be eligible for concessions.

In a win for renters, the government will apply its promised 15% increase in the maximum rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance from 20 Sept. An increase in rent assistance has been one of the centrepieces of NSA's Fix Poverty Campaign. With rents rising further in recent times, it is pleasing this increase is being delivered to people struggling with housing costs, although more could be done. The 15% increase comes on top of regular indexation, meaning the maximum rate for CRA will increase by \$27.60 to \$184.80 per fortnight. For couples, the maximum payment increases by \$26 to \$174. People receiving Job-Seeker will get a \$ 40 per fortnight increase in their payment from 20 Sept. This is on top of regular indexation. People aged 55-59 will get a much higher rate of Job-Seeker, in line with those over 60, but only if on payment for 9 or more continuous months. This comes on top of the base rate increase of \$40 and any increase from regular indexation of Job-Seeker payment. It means that older Job-Seekers will receive an increase to their fortnightly payment of \$96.10.

NSA Chief Advocate Ian Henschke said while people who rely on the Age pension will welcome the increase, under the current system pensioners are still behind, especially when inflation is high. More could be done to support people who are doing it tough. "What we need is additional targeted support for people with limited means and to stop punishing those who need to work," Mr Henschke said. A recent National Seniors research showed, a greater proportion of people with low incomes and those who are renting are experiencing severe impact from cost-of- living pressures. "The increase in rent assistance is a good start but more needs to be done to help renters," Ian said. "We recently heard from a couple who pay more than \$920 per fortnight in rent. As pensioners that leaves them with only \$907.40 a fortnight for food, fuel, utilities and other expenses. "In our Employment White Paper Submission, we have called on the government to simplify the tax and transfer system to boost workforce participation, as well as increase income and savings. "We want a change to income test rules for pensioners who want to work and work more. This could be achieved by reducing the taper rate from 50cents to 32.5 cents in the dollar to align with the tax system. It's simple, fair and will help solve critical workforce shortages and boost the budget bottom line. "We will continue to continue to fight for a system that improves people's lives!"

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

**Modbury Branch Newsletter**  
**September 2023**      **Issue 212**\_\_\_\_\_



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### **Branch Diary**

#### **Guest speakers**

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**18<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**SACOS (AGM)**

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**16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

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**20<sup>th</sup> Nov. Christmas**

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**Lunch**

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Modbury NSA is sponsored by the Modbury Plaza Hotel

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Thanks to the Office of Federal Member for Makin, Tony Zappia, in the printing of this Newsletter

## Committee for 2022-----2023

President	Susan Boyle	0428 500 779
Vice President	Vacancy	
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574 554
Treasurer	Heather Murphy	8365 6002
Assist. Treasurer	Ron Murphy	8365 6002
Activities Officer	Rosalie Zurek	8264 9681
Guest Speakers	Roma Webb	0415 864 357
Welfare	Margaret Helman	0439 682 103
Extra Member (1)	Robyn Neate	0408 496 305
Extra Member (2)	Beverly Anderson	
Ex Officio. Public Officer	John Fellows	
Door	John D'Arcy, Merv Fenwick & Eric Schubert	
Greeter	Beverly Anderson	
Newsletter	Ray Zurek	

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 Modbury National Seniors meet every third Monday of the month (4<sup>th</sup> if Public Holiday) at 1.30pm at Lutheran Homes Inc., 1217 Grand Junction Rd. Hope Valley except November and December. Entrance fee of \$5.00

Postal address: NSA Modbury, PO Box 499, St. Agnes, 5097

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*\*We always welcome visitors and potential new members. If after 3 or 4 visits you find that you enjoy coming to our meetings and being part of our group why not become a financial member of National Seniors Australia? Members are able to get involved in discussing and taking part in community issues pertaining to Senior Australians. You can also take part in social events, hear interesting guest-speakers and meet like-minded members at other branches. Most importantly members can ensure that their voice is heard on issues affecting the over 6 mill. Australians over 50! Only financial members are covered by NSA Insurance on outings! Financial members will also be given preference when there is a limit on numbers e.g. Christmas Lunch, Bus Trips etc.*

	Single	Joint
1year membership	\$48.5	\$80
2 year	\$88	\$143
3 year	\$120	\$180
5 year	\$220	\$325

Enrolment forms can be found on activities Table or from Treasurer. M/fees can be paid at the Post Office or by phone. No Credit card surcharge applies!

Riddle: I'm made of 8 letters but hold 1 inside. Pay a very small fee and send me for a ride. ????  
 Grandma's Wit and Wisdom; You can perceive real beauty in a person as they get older!!!!  
 Interesting facts: Yawning cools you brain, like a fan cools the inside of your computer

## Forthcoming events for 2023

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.** appr. 9.20am -4pm, St Kilda Mangrove Trail. 11seater bus and private cars Walking Trail approx. 1hr, seats and toilet along the way, can stop and return at any time if you find it too strenuous. Community Bus will leave LHI at 9.30 for trip, cost of \$12 payable to Rosalie. M/tea at 'Tackle and Tucker' 10.15am. Lunch at St.Kilda Hotel at 12pm. Lunch Special \$12.50 & Main Menu available. Speciality coffee and teas. Bring your Aerogard!!!!  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.** Modbury NSA 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, keep the date free!!!!!!  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.** 12noon. Seniors Christmas Lunch at the Windsor Hotel, Windsor Gardens, 2 course meal + Salad Bar + hot vegetables \$22.90, will also have a raffle,

**Sept.. Birthdays:** Marlene Crossman(1), John D'Arcy(2), Janine McKenzie(6), Linda Smith(10), Elizabeth Gillman(26), Andrea Randell(27), Vin Wright(28),

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Margaret & John Fellows (21),  
 Congratulations and Best Wishes To All !

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**Aussie Joke:** Simon, returning home from a business trip a day earlier, got into a taxi from the airport. It was after midnight. While on the way home, he asked the cabby if he would be a witness. Simon suspected his wife was having an affair and he wanted to catch her in the act. For \$100 the cabby agreed. Arriving at the house they quietly tiptoed into the bedroom. Simon switched on the light, yanked the blanket back and there was his wife in bed with another man. Simon put a gun to the naked man's head. The wife suddenly shouted out:"Don't do it! This man has been very generous ! I lied when I told you I inherited some money. He paid for the SUV, the new Cabin Cruiser, the house on the beach, He paid for the Golf Club membership and even pays the monthly dues ! Shaking his head from side to side, Simon lowered his gun. He looked over to the cab driver and said :'What would you do?' The cabby said:" I'd cover him up with that blanket before he catches a cold!!!



At the AGM in September the following positions have to be filled: Vice President, Treasurer, Guest speaker Co-ordinator, Welfare Officer and an extra Door-Person. Please think about taking-on any of these positions if you want the branch to continue!! Please try to be at the meeting by 1.15 and sign in so we can start the meeting on time. Please wear your name Badges at meetings and Outings !!