

NSA News: Age Pension changes.....(Dr. Brendon Radford)

Pension indexation and deeming rates changes from 20th Sept. will see pension payments up, down or steady, depending on your circumstances. The government has announced changes to Age pension payments from 20th Sept., including a lift in the previously frozen deeming rates by 0.5% and an increase to the Age pension of up to \$29.70 single and \$22.40 each for couples. NSA CEO Chris Grice, said it's a mixed bag for pensioners. All pensioners will receive a boost to their payments due to indexation to the Age Pension (the most substantial in 2 years).However, some part-time and full-time pensioners will have this increase offset by the lift to deeming rates, which will reduce pensions under the income test. Who is affected and by how much depends on personal circumstances. NSA estimates that around 180,000 full-rate will become part-time pensioners as a result of the 0.5% increase to the upper and lower deeming rates in Sept. However, many of these people will receive a higher pension payment than before the application of indexation. Such is the complex nature of means testing. The 470,000 part-time pensioners currently under the income test will have an increase in their payment from indexation offset by a fall in the payments from the deeming rate change. Some will receive an overall increase and other an overall decrease. The exact amount will vary depending on the amount of assets they have, whether they're homeowners or not, and whether they have employment income, among other things. "It is important to acknowledge that the 3 year freeze on deeming rates spared pensioners a significant drop in income during a time that interest rates and everyday living costs soared," Mr. Grice said. "NSA called for a continuation of the freeze with any lift to be modest while waiting for interest rates to fall." While the lift on the freeze will not be welcomed, the government has attempted to cushion the impact by aligning changes with indexation to the Age Pension, something that NSA argued should be considered in the move to reset deeming rates. By timing deeming rate changes with indexation, and doing it slowly as interest rates reduce, this avoids what could have been a sharper impact on pensioners. "We acknowledge the Ministers for Social Services, Tanya Plibersek, for her considered and consultative approach to the Age Pension adjustments and look forward to continued discussions with the Minister ahead of March when the pension next is adjusted," Mr Grice said. As we have consistently and still maintain, changes to deeming rates should be introduced in a measured, incremental, and transparent way. NSA will continue to advocate for a new method to be introduced to calculate deeming rates. When we met with the Minister we put forward the argument that the method used prior to the freeze was unfair. We called on the government to use RBA cash rate to set the upper deeming rate once the interest rates fell to a reasonable level, as they are expected to do, and set the lower deeming rate at 25% of this. We continue to advocate for this on behalf of our members, supporters, and all pensioners. "In respect to indexation, pensioners and other support payment recipients will welcome the increase to their fortnightly payments. It will help give that little extra in the pocket and purse for groceries, fuel and other competing necessities," Mr. Grice said. "Age pensioners are still feeling cost-of-living pressure and need to be supported through measures to help improve their standard of living, such as exempting employment income from the Age Pension income test, and NSA will keep fighting for this."

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Modbury Branch Newsletter

September 2025

Issue 233



Branch Diary

Guest Speakers

15th Sept.	Peter Saches	Glider Pilot (AGM)
20th Oct.	Volunteer from TTG CFS	
17th Nov.	Christmas Lunch, Windsor Hotel, 410 N/E Rd. Windsor Gardens	

Modbury NSA is sponsored by the Modbury Plaza Hotel
Thanks to the Office of Federal Member for Makin, Tony Zappia, in the printing of this Newsletter

Committee for 2024 - 2025

President	Susan Boyle	0410 500 779
Vice President	Piero Fioretti	0423 784 050
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574 554
Treasurer	Bruce Dommenz	0499 006 437
Assist. Treasurer	Alastair Boyle	
Activities Officer	Rosalie Zurek	8264 9681
Guest Speakers	Rosalie Zurek	0416 010 329
Welfare	Ashley Todd	0447 745 197
Extra Member (1)	Lyn Possingham	
Extra Member (2)	Gary Possingham	
Extra Member (3)	Mary Fioretti	
Ex Officio. Public Officer	John Fellows	
Door	Eric Schubert, Mary Fioretti	
Greeter	Beverly Anderson	
Newsletter	Ray Zurek	

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

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

*** 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	\$49.50	\$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: What do you call a pen with erasers on both sides?

Grandma's Wit and Wisdom: The pen that writes your life story must be held in your hand

Interesting facts: Pigs suffer from anorexia!

Forthcoming events for 2024-----2025

Mon. 17th Nov. Christmas Lunch, 12noon, 2 course Christmas Lunch, salad & Vegie bar, \$ 29.90

Windsor Hotel, 410 N/E Rd. Windsor Gardens (Raffle),.

Please put your name in the Outings Folder if interested.

If unable to attend please let Rosalie know on 0416 010 329

September AGM, please consider how you can be part of the new Committee and keep this Branch going!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sept. Birthdays: Marlene Crossman(1), Mary Fioretti(2), Liz Gillman(26), Janine McKenzie(6), Piero Fioretti(20), Andrea Randell(27), Vin Wright(28),

Weddings: Margaret & John Fellows (21),

Congratulations and Best Wishes to All

More shopping.....

A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore, she kept staring at him. She finally overtook him at the checkout, she turned to him and said, " I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease, its just that you look so much like my late son." He answered,,: That's ok."

"I know its silly , but if you could call out 'Goodbye Mum', as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy." She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store the man called out, 'Goodbye Mum.' The little lady waved and smiled back at him. Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into some ones life , he went to pay for his groceries. "That comes to \$ 180.85," said the checkout girl. "How come its so much? I only bought 4 items ! The girl replied , "Yeah, but your mother said you'd be paying for her shopping as well!

