

NSA News, Largest Age Pension increase since 2023.....

When indexation was applied in September it could have been the biggest since 2023 when Covid-19 induced high inflation. On August 20, the federal government released the official indexation figures. It also announced that both the deeming rates would increase by 0.50% taking them to 1.75% and 3.75% from 20th September. Based on the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, NSA is estimating that September’s pension indexation at \$55.60 for a combined couple and \$36.80 for singles. This would take the maximum combined couples fortnightly pension to \$1,866and \$1, 237.70 for singles. Such an increase would be the highest pension indexation since march 2023, which followed high inflation during the Covid pandemic. This follows from the indexation to a number of pension thresholds on July 1, Which would have increased pension payments for some recipients. Additionally, the announcement of updated deeming rates, which impact the income test, was announced on 20 August. The rates are currently 1.25% up from the lower threshold, which varies for singles and couples, and 3,25% for the rest of financial assets. In March 2026 both rates were increased by0.50%, the second such rise after the rates were frozen. One factor that will flow through to investments, and so has bearing on the deeming rates, was the RBA cash rate decision on 11 August. Note also that the pension indexation and deeming rate updates occur at the same date as the automatic bi-annual revaluation of assets by Service Australia. This means the final pension change could be the result of multiple factors pulling in different directions.

The age pension indexation isn’t just based on the widely known Consumer Price Index. Instead, it takes the higher CPI and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost index, which is meant to account for the different spending pattern of people receiving the age pension. The age pension indexation is based on the previous 6 month of inflation. So, for September it was based on the inflation from January to June. For the latest ABS data, we estimate that the latest age pension indexation was based on the PBLCI figure. On a six-month basis CPI has been steady at around 2%, while the PBLCI has been increasing at around 3%. It is not the raw percentage changes that determine the increase, rather separate categories of spending, such as ‘Food and non-alcoholic beverages’ or ‘transport’, are weighted base on approximate proportion of typical spending. But this higher indexation doesn’t apply to the whole pension. The pension is made up of three payments:

- *Basic rate
- *Pension supplement
- *Energy Supplement

The higher of CPI or PBLCI indexation only applies to the ‘basic rate ‘. The pension supplement is only indexed and steady fixed to \$10.60 for each member of a couple and \$14.10 for

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

singles .The higher indexation level is then checked against a measure of wages and increased if it falls below a particular level.

Modbury Branch News Letter
October 2026 Issue 243



Branch Diary

Guest Speakers 2026

- 19 Oct. Bob and the Boomers, Musical afternoon** _____
- 16TH Nov. Christmas Lunch 12 noon, Windsor Hotel** _____

Committee for 2026

President	Susan Boyle	0410 500779
Vice President	Piero Fioretti	0423 784050
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574554
Treasurer	Bruce Dommenz	
Assist. Treasurer	Alastair Boyle	
Guest Speakers	Rosalie Zurek	0416 010 329
Welfare	Ashley Todd	0447 745 195
Extra Member (1) (Outings)	Mary Fioretti	0407 054 825
Ex Officio. Public Officer	Ray Zurek	
Door Greeter	Dianne & David Broadbent Beverley 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 guestspeakers 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 eg.Christmas Lunch, Bustrips etc .

S	Membership Fees	
	Single	Couple
1year membership	\$49.50	\$80
2 year “	\$88	\$143
3year “	\$120	\$180
5 year “	\$220	\$325

Enrolment forms can be found on Activities table or from Treasurer. M/F can also be paid at the Post Office or by phone. No Credit card surcharge applies!

Riddle: I make a loud noise when I’m changing. When I’m done I get bigger but weigh less?

Grandma's wit and wisdom: Truth is, I wouldn’t know a Gigabyte from a Snakebite!
Interesting facts: People who suffer from dysania find it difficult to get out of bed in the morning.

Forthcoming events for 2026---

Monday 16th November, 12 noon, Seniors Christmas Lunch, Windsor Hotel, Windsor Gardens, 2 Course meal with hot vegetables and salad bar, Free for members who attended at least 2 meetings this year, Lucky Door Prizes,
We are thinking of starting a ‘Friendship Group’ next year for bi-monthly outings for Coffee and Meals if enough people are interested. Please let Rosalie know if interested!
You are also most welcome to join ‘Friends and Neighbours’ at the Lutheran Homes !
 ++++++
- October Birthdays : Gisela Hayden(13), Veronica Lambert(16), Diana Wright(23), Ethel Hagelstein(26), John Fellows(28),
Weddings: Pat & Ashley Todd (27), Raelene & Ron O’Flaherty (30)
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL

Joke: A woman was walking along the beach when she stumbled upon a genie’s lamp. She picked it up, rubbed it and a genie appeared. The woman asked if she was entitled to three wishes. The genie said, ‘No. Due to inflation, constant downsizing, low wages in the Third world countries and fierce global competition, I can only grant you one wish. So what will it be?’ The woman didn’t hesitate. She said, ”I want peace in the Middle East. See this map? I want these countries to stop fighting with each other.” The genie looked at the map and exclaimed :”Lady! These countries have been fighting for thousands of years. I’m good, but not that good! It can’t be done. Make another wish.” The woman thought for a minute and said, “Well, I’ve never been able to find the right man. You know, one that’s considerate and fun, likes to cook and helps with the house-cleaning, is good in bed and gets along with my family, doesn’t watch sports all the time, and is faithful! That’s all I wish for……a good soul mate!”
The genie let out a long sigh and said, “Lady, let me see that map again!”



