

YOUR LifeChoices

health + wealth + travel + work

Monday 9 September 2013

Dear Tony Abbott,

Congratulations on your victory in Saturday's federal election. We're sure the next three years will bring many challenges and opportunities for you to repay the voters' faith in the Liberal party.

As the No.1 site for Australians aged 50 plus, **YOURLifeChoices** has an active membership of over 101,000 people who have worked hard to make this country the great place it is today. In turn we ask you what you plan to do for those who are struggling to exist on a fixed income. Currently 69 per cent of Australian retirees (aged 65 and over) exist on a full or part Age Pension.

While the pension reforms of 2009 went some way to address the inadequacy of the Age Pension, they did not go far enough to provide a fair and just income for those Australians on a full Age Pension who have to manage on \$808.40 per fortnight, which includes the Pension Supplement and the Clean Energy Supplement. At \$21,018.40, the annual amount of the full Age Pension is \$1573.52 less than the amount stated by the ASFA Retirement Standard required to live a modest lifestyle.

To redress the balance, it is time that the Age Pension was properly addressed by the Federal Government and an increase of \$30 per week implemented immediately. Are you, Mr Abbott and your government, prepared to implement a policy which will directly benefit those Australians often forgotten in the battle to lead the country? Are you willing to be a government of action, to repay the pensioners being forced to eke out an existence which cannot even be regarded as modest?

YOURLifeChoices has asked its members to join with us in letting you know that we expect the needs of older Australians to be fully addressed within the first year of your government's term. Attached are the signatures of those who will hold you accountable should you shirk your responsibilities.