

MEDIA RELEASE

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HANDS OFF THE AGE PENSION

“The age pension is set to shrink following the 2014 Budget,” says Ian Day, CEO of Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW). “While the Federal Government has been heavily criticised for considering a \$7.00 GP co-payment, they’ve escaped criticism of a much more significant attack on pensioners’ finances.”

Currently the age pension is indexed in relation to average Australian male earnings. But as of 2017 it will be indexed in relation to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

“The impact of this change will be huge,” says Mr Day. “After just four years of indexing the age pension in relation to the CPI, recipients will see their pension payments drop by around \$1600 a year.”

“It’s important to put this change in context. The Federal Government has announced that the GP co-payment would be capped at \$70 a year, but people rightly said that this would be too much for some to bear.”

“Obviously, the loss of \$1600 a year will hit someone on the age pension a lot harder. It’s time to tell the Federal Government that this move needs to be reversed.”

“We are urging people to sign the petition on the COTA NSW website. After all, this cut to indexation has already passed successfully through the House of Representatives. The Federal Government needs to know people want them to change course.”

“People who are eligible for the age pension have spent their whole life contributing to the society and the economy. It’s time the Federal Government took their hands off the pension.”

END

Interview Ian Day: 0417 210 234 T: (02) 9286 3860 W: www.cotansw.com.au