



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

8 March 2011

Helping 25, 000 pensioners in the South with the cost of living

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston today announced that 25, 000 pensioners in Southern Adelaide will soon receive an increase in their pensions to help meet increases in the cost of living.

Ms Rishworth said “Age, disability and carer pensioners as well as veterans’ income support recipients living in our local community will receive an extra \$13.20 a fortnight for singles on the maximum rate, and \$19.80 a fortnight for couples combined on the maximum rate as of 20 March.”

Ms Rishworth said that this will mean total pension payments for people on the maximum rate, including the base rate and pension supplement, will be \$729.30 a fortnight for singles, and \$1,099.40 a fortnight for couples combined.

Ms Rishworth said “These significant pension rises are a result of improvements made by the Labor Government in September 2009, including a one-off increase to the base rate of the pension, a new pension supplement, a pension Work Bonus and a new indexation system.

“The Government’s pension reforms have made a huge difference for local pensioners, with singles on the maximum rate now receiving \$128 more a fortnight than they did before the changes, and couples combined on the maximum rate receiving an extra \$116 a fortnight.”

Ms Rishworth said that these pension rises deliver on the Gillard Government’s commitment to improve support to older Australians.

“I’m pleased to be part of the Labor Government that delivered the most significant reforms to the pension system in its 100 year history,” said Ms Rishworth.

This March pension indexation increase has been driven by wages growth in the six months to November 2010. Pensioners will start to benefit from the increased pension rates on their first payment date after March 20.

Full details of all rates and thresholds to be indexed on March 20 can be found here: www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/mediareleases/2011/Pages/rates_indexation_march_2011.aspx