



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

Media Release

Turnbull ignores 15,470 pensioners in Kingston

15,470 pensioners in the Kingston electorate are being ignored by Liberal Leader Malcolm Turnbull.

Amanda Rishworth the Member for Kingston said the Liberal and National Parties planned to introduce a bill in the Senate this week which would exclude 15,470 of local pensioners from a pension increase.

“Malcolm Turnbull doesn’t believe that 961 of carers, 6778 people on a disability pension and 7731 of pensioner couples in Kingston are in need of more help. Along with his Liberal and National Party colleagues, he doesn’t consider these local pensioners worthy of additional financial help,” Ms Rishworth said.

“In contrast, as a result of Australian Government measures, all age pensioners, singles and couples, carers, veterans and disability pensioners and women on the wife pension will this week receive the next \$128 instalment of their annual \$514 Utilities Allowance.

“The regular pension indexation increase of \$15.30 per fortnight for singles also kicks in this week.

“But the Coalition would rather play politics with pensioners with a cheap stunt that excludes 2 million pensioners around Australia from a pension increase.

“That’s more than half a million carers, veterans and people with disability who are in exactly the same financial circumstances as single age pensioners - \$281 a week.

“By contrast, the Australian Government understands that all pensioners in Kingston are under financial pressure.

“We are determined to improve the pension system for everyone in Kingston and around Australia.

“The Liberal-National Coalition had 12 years to fix the pension system properly but did nothing. Last year the Howard Cabinet actually voted against raising the base rate of the pension,” Ms Rishworth MP said.

“The Australian Government is determined to give pensioners the long-term support, certainty and security they deserve.

“We have made a down payment on reform by increasing the Utilities Allowance from \$107 to \$514, and extending it for the first time to carer payment and disability support pensioners.

“We also provided bonus payments for seniors and carers.

“The Government is well on the way to completing a comprehensive investigation into how we can improve the pension system. So far we have received more than 600 submissions from pensioners in every sector including carers, age pension couples and people on disability pensions.

“Once the inquiry is complete, the Government will act quickly to improve the pension system for all pensioners,” Ms Rishworth MP said.