



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

OVER 23,400 LOCAL PENSIONERS TO BENEFIT FROM REFORMS

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth today said the Rudd Government's Budget had ensured local single pensioners would receive the increased support they deserve.

Ms Rishworth said the single pensioners in Southern Adelaide would receive increases of up to \$32.49 a week as part of the Rudd Government's Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms.

"We all know pensioners thoroughly deserve this extra support and it's great that even in the hardest of economic times the Rudd Government has delivered," Ms Rishworth said.

"In Kingston there are around over 23,400 age pensioners, disability pensioners, carers, wife pensioners and veteran income support recipients.

"They will all benefit from the sustainable and responsible reforms announced in the Budget to increase their pension payments."

The reforms will improve the pension system, make it simpler, and more sustainable into the future as the population ages.

"These changes have been a long time coming but they deliver a stronger and fairer pension system that will serve pensioners and Australia well into the future," Ms Rishworth said

From 20 September 2009 pensioners in Southern Adelaide can look forward to:

- An additional **\$32.49** per week for **singles on the full rate**;
- An additional **\$10.14** per week **combined for couples on the full rate**; and
- A new guaranteed **\$600 annual carer supplement** payable to all Carer Payment and Carer Allowance recipients;

These increases will cost the Budget \$14.2 billion over the next four years and the Rudd Government has taken the tough decisions required to fund these changes.

"From 20 September 2009, total assistance including the base pension and supplements for single pensioners will increase from \$304.19 per week to \$336.68 per week and for pensioner couples combined it will increase from \$497.36 per week to \$507.50 per week." Ms Rishworth said.

