



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. Chris Bowen MP

Minister for Human Services

Minister for Financial Services, Superannuation and Corporate Law

Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

PENSION BOOST EXPLAINED AT NOARLUNGA SEMINARS

10 September 2009

The Member for Kingston, Ms Amanda Rishworth, has announced Noarlunga Centrelink will run free seminars on the 22 September to explain how the new Pension Reforms will benefit pensioners.

"With some of the most significant changes to the pension system in 100 years set to be introduced on 20 September, Centrelink will be holding free seminars to help pensioners understand how the changes will impact them," Ms Rishworth said.

"The pension will go up by \$65 a fortnight for singles on the full rate and just over \$20 per fortnight for part-rate single pensioners and couples. To explain these changes in full, a Centrelink Financial Information Services Officer will be speaking at the seminars."

"The seminars will be a good opportunity to provide details on the new 'Pension Supplement', which will be automatically paid each fortnight starting 20 September. It will make things easier for pension recipients."

Age Pension aged residents currently working part-time are also encouraged to attend, to find out further information on the new 'Work Bonus'.

"The Work Bonus is possibly one of the biggest changes, with pensioners over Age Pension age being able to keep more of their employment income from 20 September 2009.

"This new Work Bonus means only half of the first \$500 of employment income earned per fortnight will be assessed under the income test. For some people, this could mean an extra \$125 per fortnight, on top of the pension increases."

"I strongly encourage anyone interested to attend these seminars," Ms Rishworth said.

"As there has been strong interest so far, it is important that you book now to ensure you have a place. People can reserve their place by calling **13 6357**."

Minister for Human Services, Chris Bowen MP said the pension changes were vital in providing security and sustainability into the future.

“The Australian Government's Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms mean pension payments will be simpler, fairer and more flexible,” Mr Bowen said.

“They will also help ensure Australia is better prepared for the challenges of the future.

“Centrelink will write to 3.3 million pensioners in September to explain how the changes will impact on their individual entitlements, but I strongly encourage anyone interested in finding out more to attend one of these invaluable seminars.”

Further information on pension changes and Centrelink payments is available at www.centrelink.gov.au

Venue Information

Information seminars will be held this week at the following locations:

Date

Tuesday, 22 September

Location

Noarlunga Customer Service Centre

Bookings are essential – call 13 63 57