

# Media Release

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## Seniors in poverty – who cares?

New political party Hear Our Voice launches a bold new initiative for pensioners.

Responding to inaction by the major political parties to improve the financial security of age pensioners, Hear Our Voice today called for the creation of a 'Retirement Fund' to pay for an increase in the age pension.

Launching their Seniors policy today, Hear Our Voice President, Toni McLennan, called for an increase in the age pension by 30 per cent, raising the single age pension to \$350 and the couples age pension to \$292 per person a week, incrementally over the next three years.

Hear Our Voice proposes to pay for an increase in the aged pension initially from budget surpluses and in the medium to long term through a special fund, to be known as the 'Retirement Fund,' financed and managed in a similar manner to the successful Future Fund.

'This initiative is affordable in the current climate of high budget surpluses and is the right thing to do,' Toni McLennan said.

'We are a wealthy country with multi billion dollar surpluses – but many senior Australians can't even afford a cup of coffee with friends, a game of bingo or a beer at the bowling club.

'Seniors have worked hard and paid taxes all their lives but many are living below or near the poverty line and this is unacceptable. And demonstrates that the Government is creating an uncaring economy rather than building a community.

'Many pensioners are angry that politicians recently accepted large salary increases but ignored their plight.

'The major parties simply do not care enough about our senior Australians. It is only at election time that they make out they care. Hear Our Voice's Retirement Fund initiative must be considered as a positive way forward. As a nation we are judged by how we treat our most vulnerable,' Toni McLennan said.

### Media Note:

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