



(For Immediate Release)

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **SOME BUDGET SUCCESS FOR SCOA - HOPE OF MORE TO COME**

The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association's Federal President, Dr Annette Barbetti, said that her organisation's almost 200,000 constituents would have mixed feelings about the Budget.

A number of recommendations made in SCOA's pre Budget submission were picked up by the new Government - such as the long awaited interstate reciprocal transport arrangements, the re-introduction of a national dental health program and some increase in aged care funding. It was disappointing however that many of SCOA's pre-budget recommendations did not appear in the budget, particularly when some of them have also been recommended by other retiree organisations.

However, SCOA's most important recommendation was not included, namely the introduction of a fairer indexation method for the pensions of the Government's former employees and former members of the Defence Force. Dr Barbetti said, "SCOA is pleased that the Government has shown its concern for the financial plight of many senior Australians by introducing a third string to the indexation bow for most Government funded pensions." The Government's former employees and former serving members of the Defence Force will be eagerly awaiting the completion of a promised six month review of their pension indexation. They will certainly be expecting the Government to show them equal concern and adopt the recommendations of three separate Senate Inquiries to index their pensions more fairly.

"The cost of such a change is very affordable", Dr Barbetti said, "especially when the former Government said, prior to the last election, that the Future Fund will hold sufficient monies to meet long term Commonwealth superannuation pension payments once the Government deposits a small fraction of this year's massive budget surplus."

This budget has taken some steps towards providing a 'fair go' for many senior Australians. The Government has an obligation to extend this 'fair go' to former Government employees, whose average pension is less than the married rate of Age Pension.

Ends.

Contact: Dr Annette Barbetti, Federal President  
Phone: Ph 02 6241 4579, Mobile 0407 262 404  
Email: [barbaj@grapevine.net.au](mailto:barbaj@grapevine.net.au)