



(For Immediate Release)

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Federal election candidates face neglected Commonwealth and Defence pensioners

In a series of four public meetings across Canberra and Queanbeyan Federal politicians and their opponents will meet Commonwealth and Defence retirees to outline both their personal and their parties' positions on the serious decline in the standard of living of Commonwealth and Defence pensioners who say they are being treated as second class Australians.

Mr Ewan Hazell, Federal President of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (SCOA) said, "Age and other pensions have grown by nearly 100% from 1990 to 2007 but Commonwealth superannuation pensions have grown by only 60% in the same period". He says the 1 July 07 **nil** increase in these pensions has added to the existing anger at this deliberate neglect by the current Federal Government despite record Budget surpluses.

Mr Hazell said that the declining standard of living of these pensioners was caused by the unfair indexation of Commonwealth and Defence superannuation pensions and says, "These pensions are indexed to the CPI while the Age Pension and other Commonwealth pensions are indexed to the better of the CPI and a wage-based index". Mr Hazell says, "Commonwealth and Defence pensioners are not asking for any special treatment. They simply want their pensions indexed the same way as other Commonwealth pensions and they want their local political representatives to fix it. There are 40,000 affected voters in the ACT and 7,000 in the Eden Monaro electorate and that's not counting those still in the work force."

Expected to attend the Canberra meetings are Senate Candidates from the ACT, including Senator Gary Humphries (Liberal), Kerrie Tucker (Greens) and Senator Kate Lundy and Peter Conway (Labor). The sitting member for Eden Monaro, Minister Gary Nairn, (Liberal) and Col. Mike Kelly (Labor) will attend the Queanbeyan meeting as well as a representative of Mr Keith Hughes, (Greens) and Ms Acacia Rose (Independent).

If Commonwealth and Defence pensioners have missed the adverts in *The Canberra Times* and *The Chronicle*, the meeting details are as follows:

Woden: Wednesday, 24 October, Southern Cross Club, 10.30 am.

Queanbeyan: Wednesday, 24 October, Queanbeyan Kangaroo Club, 2.30 pm

Tuggeranong: Thursday, 25 October, Southern Cross Club, 10.30 am.

Ainslie: Wednesday, 31 October, Ainslie Football Club, 10.30 am.

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