

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***FAIR GO FOR DESERVING AUSTRALIANS***

The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association today welcomed the recent media release from the Green's ACT Senate candidate Kerrie Tucker who said that if elected, she will lobby strongly to end the discriminatory way the pensions of former Defence Force personnel and former Commonwealth/Territory employees are indexed.

John Coleman, SCOA's Indexation Campaign Manager said that those affected rightly say that they are tired of being treated as second-class Australians.

Two Senate Inquiries have recommended that the Government adopt a wage-based index for these pensioners but the Government refuses to do so.

As Kerrie Tucker said, the unfairness of the treatment of these Australians was best demonstrated in July when they received no six monthly pension increase due to a negative movement in the CPI. However most other Government funded pensioners rightly received a 2.5% increase.

Mr Coleman said that the major parties need to be reminded that this matter will weigh heavily on the minds of 300,000 voting Australians. In particular, he said that many thousands of Canberra voters are likely to express their frustration with the major parties when choosing a Senate candidate because their standard of living is being significantly eroded compared to other groups of senior Australians and they don't deserve that unfair treatment.

The Government is unsuccessfully attempting to convince those affected that this is a fair way to treat people who have proudly served their country and what it stands for.

In addition to those affected in Canberra, there are an additional 87,000 living in marginal seats with about 2,000 in the Prime Minister's seat of Bennelong and almost 7,000 in the election bellwether seat of Eden Monaro.

Mr Coleman said that from the contact he has with those affected throughout Australia, many will vent their anger on election day because they've waited too long for indexation fairness.

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