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Retired public servants want 'fairer' pension increases

Retired public servants are angry their pensions have not been safeguarded by the Federal Government and are threatening to take action at the election.

They say they will target marginal government seats in their campaign to improve pension entitlements.

They want wage-based indexation rather than the consumer price index (CPI) used to calculate pensions, which they say will reflect more fairly the cost of living.

Ewan Hazell from the Superannuants Association says they lobbied unsuccessfully for a change in last week's Budget.

"The average Commonwealth Superannuation pension for a couple is about \$21,000," he said.

"The aged pension's well above that now, for a couple. Not a fairly happy state of affairs.

"Over the years, we've lost considerable amount of ground.

"Each time we raise the issue they beat us back and say, 'the CPI is good enough for you.'"

Mr Hazell says the CPI does not accurately represent the increase in the cost of living, and he is calling on the Federal Government to do more.

"In the tax breaks that have been given, about half to more than half of our members, Commonwealth superannuants, missed out on anything at all," he said.

"They gained no benefit.

"They didn't earn enough money to pay tax, and if you don't pay tax, when a tax break's given, you get nothing."

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