

MEDIA RELEASE

Pensioners stop traffic

Pensioners stopped traffic in Flinders Street today to draw attention to their claims for a fair go. “\$270 per week is not enough to live on yet single pensioners are supposed to do so for 30 odd years,” says Sue Hendy Executive Director COTA (Victoria).

“Pensioners had high hopes that the first Budget from the new government would recognise their plight. We couldn’t believe that a “super duper” surplus got the nod against justice for people who built this country without the benefits that are now taken for granted by others”.

COTA has a four-point plan for the Federal Government:

1. Instruct the Tax/Pension review to come up with a way to guarantee that the combination of age pension, superannuation and income from private savings ensures a modest standard of living for everyone
2. Establish a “Cost of a Modest Standard of Living in Retirement” that is kept up-to-date with the real cost of living.
3. Immediately increase single pension from 60% to at least 67% of the couple rate
4. In the next Budget give \$1000 per annum increase to full pensioners until the Review is finalised and new arrangements implemented.

“Today was not just a flash. Together with our partners in the Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition we will continue work to get a fair outcome as promised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,” pledges Sue.

“We invite all pensioners in Victoria to register their support by joining our mailing list. Ring 0396544443 or email projects@cotavic.org.au

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The non party political *Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition*, established in 2007, includes Council on the Ageing (Victoria) Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; 120 seniors’ groups; Amalgamated Manufacturing Workers Union (Retired Members Division), Maritime Workers Union of Australia (Retired Members Division) and church and community groups.

*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (Article 25)