

# JUSTICE FOR AGE PENSIONERS AND OLDER UNEMPLOYED!

# Anti-poverty Network SA

**NO To Raising The Retirement Age!!**

**NO To Cutting The Age Pension!!**

**NO To Demonising Older People On Newstart!!**

**OVER ONE-THIRD OF AUSTRALIAN  
PENSIONERS CURRENTLY LIVE IN POVERTY.**

**Anti-poverty network SA  
IS A GROUP WHO FIGHT FOR A FAIR AND  
ADEQUATE WELFARE SYSTEM. JOIN US!**

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Australia was one of the first countries to introduce the Age Pension. But now we have more older Australians living in poverty than other wealthy countries, with over one-third of pensioners living in poverty.

When it comes to fighting poverty among older people, we rank 61 out of 96 nations, below Bolivia, Ecuador, and Thailand.

The government says we cannot afford to spend so much on the Age Pension. It wants to raise the retirement age from 67 to 70.

And change how the payment increases so that over time, pensioners receive less money than if the government had simply left them alone.

But Australia spends only 2.7 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) on the Age Pension. This figure will rise to only 3.9 percent by 2050. Other rich countries spend roughly 7 percent.

Raising the retirement age will hurt already struggling older job-seekers, forced to languish for even longer on the very low Newstart.

Older unemployed people are locked out of the job-market. Because there are not enough jobs to go around (one job for every five job-seekers). And employer discrimination.

Over 40 percent of people on Newstart are over 45. Why should they be trapped on \$260 per week, missing out and falling behind the rest of the community?

Why should people be forced to work longer when Australians already work longer hours than workers from other wealthy countries?

There is NO budget crisis. NO excuse for this. If the government wanted to make savings, instead of forcing poor people to make sacrifices it could:

- End subsidies to the very profitable fossil fuels industry
- Increase taxes on the mining sector
- Ensure corporations paid the required amount of company tax
- End superannuation tax concessions that mostly go to the already very well-off



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