



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **CARERS, COUPLES AND THOSE ON DISABILITY ALSO NEED URGENT PENSION INCREASE**

THE PENSION should be increased across the board to help all those 3.4 million Australians on a pension make ends meet.

"Family First will move a second reading amendment to the Coalition's pensioner bill today, to call for an increase in the dollars paid to all pensioners, not just some pensioners," Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding said today.

"The Coalition's proposal gives nothing to more than 2.4 million pensioners who are also doing it tough.

The Coalitions plan gives the one million pensioners that are on the single Age Pension, single Service Pension and Widow B Pension a \$30 a week increase, but gives nothing to the other 2.4 million pensioners – such as Carers, couples on the Age pension and those on a Disability Pension.

"Australia's 3.4 million pensioners are our overlooked Australians and really struggling to make ends meet. They need extra help to pay huge grocery and petrol bills just to get by.

"Family First wants to help all of Australia's 3.4 million pensioners, including those who receive the:

- Age Pension (1.9 million people),
- Disability Support Pension (714,000 people),
- Parenting Payment Single (395,000),
- Carer Payment (116,000),
- Service Pension (200,000),
- Wife Pension (35,000) and Widow B Pension (700).

"Pensioners have been overlooked for too long, that's why Family First teamed up with Shirley the pensioner from Glenroy to get a fair go for all pensioners.

"The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Treasurer have all admitted they could not survive on the pension. But they have asked pensioners to wait until February next year for a pension review to report, next May for a budget decision and next July for relief from the soaring costs of living."

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