

# Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Monday, 16 March 2009*

### **Pensioners make last ditch bid for increase today**

Australian pensioners will today make a last ditch bid for an increase in the pension ahead of the Federal Budget this year.

The Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition said they feared the much anticipated pension changes could fall short of the increase needed to tackle the plight of thousands of elderly Australians.

*The pensioner group will be available for comment at a doorstep interview today at 11.30am at committee room 1.R.5, Parliament House Canberra.*

Last year politicians on both sides of politics openly admitted they could not survive on the current pension.

A delegation of twenty-two pensioners will sit down with Family Affairs Minister, Jenny Macklin today to press the Federal Government for an increase from 25 per cent to 35 per cent of the average male weekly earnings, and an increase of the single pension rate to 70 per cent of the couples rate.

Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition spokesperson, Frank Cherry said the increase was urgently needed to alleviate the financial hardship many pensioners suffer.

“Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition is concerned the financial crisis means measures in the Federal Budget may fall short of the pension increase needed to help older Australians,” Mr Cherry said.

Comments from Coalition MPs which claimed the payments to pensioners in last year’s stimulus package were wasted, were cause for concern, said Mr Cherry.

Mr Cherry also said that pensioners were not immune against the fall out of the economic crisis, and the pressures placed on the working children of pensioners would impact their ability to help out.

“We’re just asking politicians to give pensioners a fair go and ensure that the pension recognises the real cost of living, which has increased greatly since the last pension increase.

**For more information please contact (Tim Chapman 0418 660 810 will assist at the doorstep)**