



FEDERAL HANDOUTS

Elderly on the outer

NORTHERN suburbs pensioners say they are in desperate need of further financial help after missing out in the Federal Government's \$42 billion stimulus package last week.

The elderly will now pin their hopes on a possible increase in the Aged Pension, which is currently being reviewed, as their \$1400 December payments run dry. Elizabeth Vale pensioner **Kay Willis** said she used the one-off Federal Government bonus to pay off debt and buy urgent items for the house, and was once again struggling to make ends meet.

"If you get an unexpected (bill) there's nothing to fall back on for many people," she said.

Salisbury Heights pensioner **Rosemary Clark** said her pension bonus had all gone on paying off her credit card bill.

"The last bonus was just really catching up from where we were but now we're back to square one



BATTLE: Kay Willis says living on the pension is tough. e16067

again because the pension is still too low and we're all going to be building up debt again," she said.

Council On The Ageing (COTA) SA chief executive **Ian Yates** said the organisation had received calls from pensioners frustrated by missing out on last week's \$42 billion government stimulus plan, which would give one-off payments of up to \$950 to families and low and middle income earners. He said if

pensioners did not receive an increase in their fortnightly payments, they would be left "in an appalling position".

Mr Yates said COTA would continue its campaign to raise the aged pension by \$100 a week, to \$381, with increases staggered over the next "couple of years".

He hoped the increases would be announced as part of the government's May Budget Review.