



NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham

Pension Review

Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, has welcomed the release of the Pension Review Background Paper, which is part of the Commonwealth's wider inquiry into Australia's taxation system.

"The Pension Review will investigate levels of income support and allowances, frequency of payments and the structure and payment of concessions or other entitlements for Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment recipients", Ms Bird said.

The release of the Pension Review Background Paper follows the announcement last month of the Pension Review Reference Group, which includes the Council of Ageing, National Seniors, Carers Australia and Australian Council of Social Services.

The closing date for written submissions to the Pension Review Reference Group is 26 September 2008.

The Pension Review Background Paper can be accessed at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/seniors/pension_review.htm

The Pension Review Reference Group will report to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin MP by 28 February 2009.

"The Commonwealth has recognised the financial pressure of pensioners by increasing the Utilities Allowance to \$500 (paid quarterly) and by the one-off payment of the \$500 Seniors Bonus announced in the 2008-09 Budget", Ms Bird said

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