

2009-10 Federal Budget Outcomes

Advocacy Wins...

...for all pensioners

- ✓ \$14.2 billion to ensure pensioners are better off by up to \$32.49 a week for singles and \$10.14 for all couple pensioners (combined).
- ✓ Only half of the first \$500 earned by a pensioner above the “income test free area” will be counted as income.
- ✓ Existing part-pensioners will keep their existing entitlements if they would be otherwise worse off under the changes to the income test taper rate.
- ✓ Current pension supplements and allowances will be maintained and rolled into one simplified fortnightly supplement payment.
- ✓ A new Pensioner Living Cost Index will be introduced, .

...for self-funded retirees

- ✓ Superannuation income (from a taxed source) will not be included in the means test for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.
- ✓ The minimum draw-down requirement on income streams will be halved for 2009-2010.
- ✓ No change to tax-free status of superannuation withdrawals for those aged 60+, as promised to National Seniors in the lead-up to the Budget.

...for aged care residents

- ✓ Pensioners in aged care will keep up to \$10.09 of their pension increase for themselves.
- ✓ Up to \$22.40 of each resident’s pension increase will be paid to the aged care provider.

...for carers

- ✓ Those receiving Carer Payments and/or Carer Allowances will each receive \$600 per year extra, \$1,200 per year if both payments are received

...for those still working

- ✓ Government is going ahead with the generous tax cuts previously announced in the 2008-09 Budget
- ✓ Over 50s can continue to make twice the amount of concessional contributions to superannuation than those under 50, even though the cap has been reduced.
- ✓ The Government will continue to co-contribute a dollar for every dollar in voluntary superannuation contributions, up to \$1,000 per year for eligible contributors.

For further information on the Federal Budget call the National Policy Office on (02) 6230 4588; email npo@nationalseniors.com.au; or visit www.nationalseniors.com.au
