



MEDIA RELEASE

Retirees Lose Confidence in the Government

As considerations on the 2017-2018 Federal Budget are finalised, the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) warns the Turnbull Government that Australia's 3.7 million retiree voters will demonstrate their loss of trust in the Government at the ballot box.

A.I.R. Executive Officer, Sue Hart, said that confidence and trust in public policy has been badly eroded with the failure of Federal politicians and their parties to end the continuous attack on retirees' superannuation funds.

The Association believes that the ongoing attacks on retirees by this conservative Government are behind recent Gallup Poll results that indicate a significant loss of the retiree vote for the Government. A.I.R. has repeatedly called for Members and Senators to think beyond their Party line and put the interests of their individual constituents first through policies that make real change beyond the life of this Parliament.

Australians who either fully or partly self-fund their retirement are fed up with the continuous attack on their superannuation funds and fearful for their future.

Changes to superannuation, the lack of a desire for bipartisan agreement on superannuation, continuing Government agreement to out of control increases in Private Health Insurance premiums, coupled with the Government's erosion of the over 65 years health insurance rebate percentage and changes to the asset test taper rate, are all elements that have evolved into distrust and a strong negative reaction.

A further issue is the Government's failure to grandfather changes which breaks a long standing tradition to protect those who have planned or are planning their retirement income on the basis of current policy.

The combination of these changes has seriously damaged the current Government in the eyes of a significant sector of the Australian population. The raft of superannuation legislative change and a plethora of reviews and enquiries over recent years which has resulted in increased complexity, confusion and an undermining of confidence in the superannuation system and the Government's appalling ad hoc decision making in this area.

A.I.R. has made a number of recommendations to the Government for inclusion in the 2017-2018 Federal Budget that we believe would restore some respect and trust in the Government's decision making around retirement incomes if they were adopted.

For further information, contact Sue Hart, Executive Officer on 02 6290 2599.

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The Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd is a member-driven national, not for profit, non-political organisation which works to advance and protect the interests and independent lifestyle of Australians in retirement. A.I.R. seeks to secure recognition and equity for Australians who, through their diligence and careful management, fully or partly self-fund their own retirement needs.