

A.I.R. Calls for Retention of Allowances in the Federal Budget

Following recent media reports that benefits to Australian seniors may be cut in this year's Federal Budget to be delivered in May, the President of the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited, wrote to the Prime Minister seeking an assurance that benefits such as the Utilities Allowance and the Seniors' Concession and Carers' Allowances will continue.

"A.I.R. recognises that in the weeks prior to a Federal Budget, speculation on budget measures becomes widespread and is frequently exaggerated," Ms Kot said.

"However, in the case of the current comments on reduced benefits for seniors and carers, A.I.R. is particularly concerned."

Whilst hopeful that there is no truth in these reports, A.I.R. remains very concerned.

"The membership of A.I.R. comprises those people who, through a prudent lifestyle, are able to partly or fully avoid becoming full pensioners dependent solely on government support, Ms Kot said.

"However, many of these "forgotten people" rely heavily on concessions or bonus payments for added income support.

"Withdrawal, or non-continuation, of these relatively small benefits would be a blow to this group of senior citizens who have accepted responsibility for their own welfare," she said.

A.I.R. appeals to the Government to also accept its share of responsibility towards its seniors and to continue to extend its concession, bonus or allowance benefits in the forthcoming Budget and beyond.

For further information, contact the A.I.R. National Secretariat on 02 6290 1505. Website: www.independentretirees.com

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