



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
11 September 2009

New Pension Payments Explained

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced that pensioners across Newcastle will be receiving letters about the upcoming improvements to pension payments over the coming weeks.

Centrelink is currently sending letters to Newcastle's more than 24,000 pensioners to explain the changes that will be made from September 20 under the Rudd Government's *Secure and Sustainable Pension Reform*.

"I am aware there has been some confusion among pensioners in recent weeks about just how much they will be receiving under this new system," Ms Grierson said.

"This letter from Centrelink will give pensioners the correct information as to just how much better off they will be.

"It's important every pensioner reads this letter carefully."

The changes will boost the pension payments of Age, Disability, Carer, Wife, and Widow B pensioners.

From 20 September, single pensioners on the maximum rate will receive a total increase of \$70.83 per fortnight, bringing their total pension to \$671.90.

Couple pensioners combined on the maximum rate will receive an increase of \$29.93 per fortnight, taking their payment up to \$1,013.

This increase includes the rise announced in the May Budget, plus regular indexation.

Full details of the changes to rates and thresholds are available at www.australia.gov.au/pensions

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Total pension payments from 20 September 2009
(full rate, per fortnight)

	<i>Single</i>	<i>Couple (combined)</i>
Base pension		
Current rate (pre-20/9)	\$550.30	\$919.20
Indexation	\$5.50	\$9.20
Pension reform increase	\$60.00	-
Total base pension (post-20/9)	\$615.80	\$928.40
Pension Supplement		
Current total value of allowances (pre-20/9)	\$50.77	\$63.87
Indexation	\$0.33	\$0.43
Pension reform increase	\$5.00	\$20.30
Total pension supplement (post-20/9)	\$56.10	\$84.60
Total pension payments	\$671.90	\$1,013.00

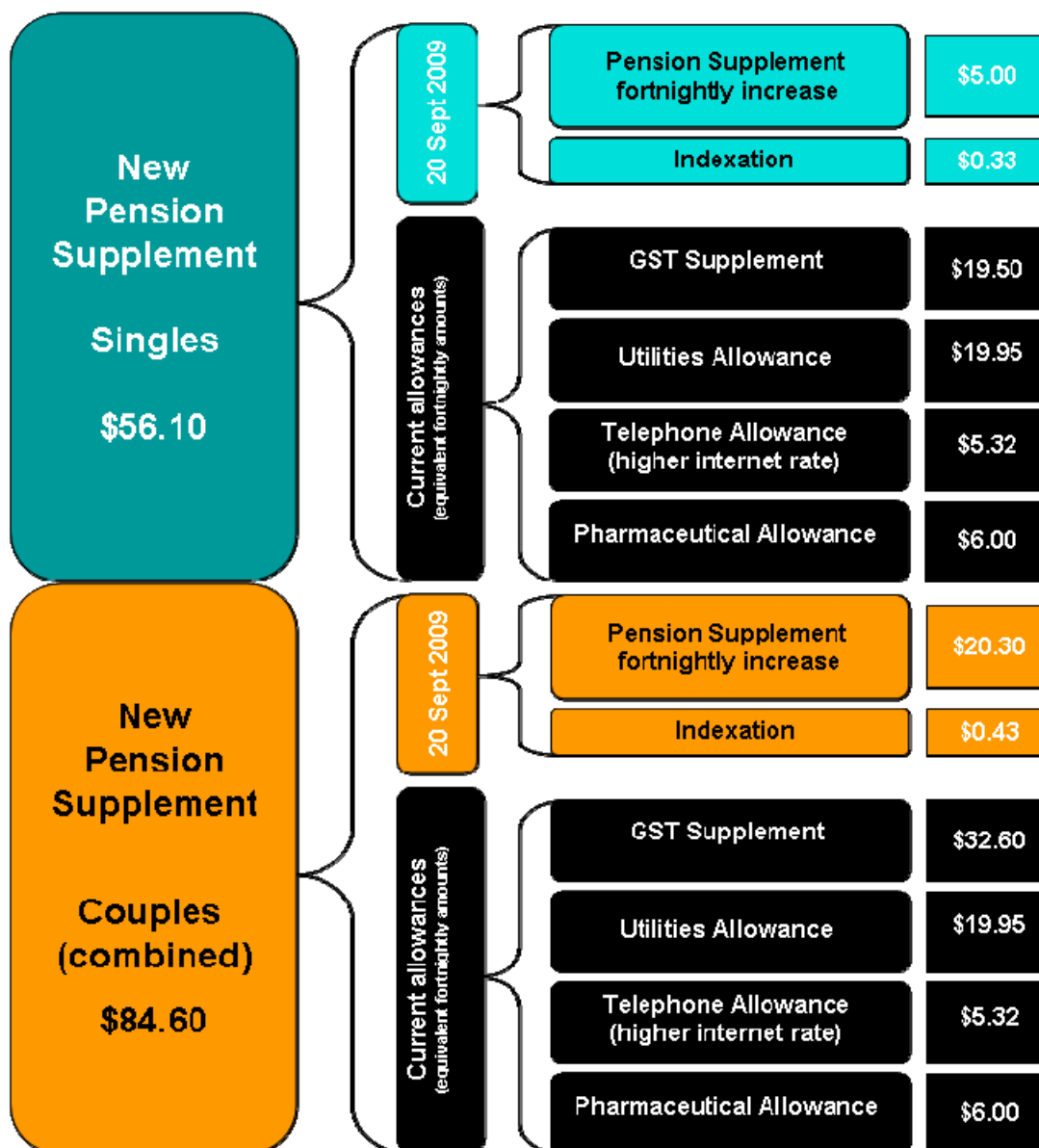
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