

Seniors Forum 2024

Questions from Members

Q. Helen Kostanti wanted to raise the issue where those over 55 years of age are required to do either paid work or voluntary work for 30 hours a fortnight to still receive her Centrelink payment. Feels this should be reduced.

Helen believes that this is not fair as younger people are not required to do work to receive payment.

A. The issue of seniors being on JobSeeker before they are eligible for the Age Pension is a concern that has been raised by other members previously. While it is welcome that some allowance has been made for seniors to meet their mutual obligations, which are more flexible than for people under age 55, this doesn't fix the core issue of seniors being able to find work free from ageism and that utilises their experience. We continue to advocate for broader changes to social security payments so that the system is adequate and fairer.

Q. Penny Greene stated that the Gold Coast City Council has ceased accepting cash as payment for council services and what could be done about this, and asked is there any legislation to protect cash?

A. Cash is legal tender and NSA's "Keep Cash" campaign is emphasising cash is legal tender as well as the needs of seniors and other members of society who need to use cash. There are some people unable to get credit cards and are uncomfortable using any form of electronic banking and NSA advocates for these people.