

2013-2014

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Defence Force Retirement Benefits  
Legislation Amendment (Fair  
Indexation) Bill 2014**

**No.     , 2014**

*(Veterans' Affairs)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the law in relation to  
defence force retirement benefits, and for related  
purposes**



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1 **A Bill for an Act to amend the law in relation to**  
2 **defence force retirement benefits, and for related**  
3 **purposes**

4 The Parliament of Australia enacts:

5 **1 Short title**

6 This Act may be cited as the *Defence Force Retirement Benefits*  
7 *Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Act 2014.*

8 **2 Commencement**

9 This Act commences on the day after this Act receives the Royal  
10 Assent.

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1

### **3 Schedule(s)**

2

Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or

3

repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule

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concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect

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according to its terms.

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2

*Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair  
Indexation) Bill 2014*

No. , 2014

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## Schedule 1—Amendments

### *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973*

#### **1 Before section 98A**

Insert:

#### **Division 1—Introduction**

#### **98AA Simplified outline of this Part**

Certain pension benefits are indexed each 1 January and 1 July.

For pensioners aged under 55, the indexation is based on positive movements in the consumer price index.

For pensioners aged 55 or older, the indexation is based on the more favourable of positive movements in:

(a) the consumer price index; and

(b) the pensioner and beneficiary living cost index;

with an adjustment if needed to ensure that affected pension benefits are increased by at least the percentage required to maintain a hypothetical pension at 27.7% of male total average weekly earnings.

#### **2 Section 98A (heading)**

Repeal the heading, substitute:

#### **98A Definitions**

#### **3 Subsection 98A(1)**

Omit “(1)”.

#### **4 Subsection 98A(1)**

Insert:

1 *55-plus percentage* has the meaning given by step 7 of the method  
2 statement in subsection 98GB(2).

3 *current indicative pension amount* has the meaning given by step  
4 4 of the method statement in subsection 98GB(2).

5 *December quarter* means the quarter ending on 31 December.

6 *indicative pension amount* has the meaning given by  
7 subsection 98GC(1).

8 *June quarter* means the quarter ending on 30 June.

9 *LCI percentage* (short for living cost index percentage) has the  
10 meaning given by section 98GD.

11 *March quarter* means the quarter ending on 31 March.

12 *pensioner* means a person to whom a pension benefit is payable.

13 *prescribed percentage* has the meaning given by  
14 subsection 98B(3).

15 *relevant rate* has the meaning given by subsection 98B(4).

16 *September quarter* means the quarter ending on 30 September.

## 17 **5 Subsections 98A(2), (3) and (4)**

18 Repeal the subsections.

## 19 **6 After section 98A**

20 Insert:

### 21 **98AB Substitutions and changes by Statistician**

22 (1) Subject to subsection (2), if at any time (whether before or after the  
23 commencement of this Part) the Statistician publishes:

24 (a) an index number of the kind referred to in subsection 98B(3)  
25 or 98GD(1); or

26 (b) an amount of the kind referred to in subsection 98GE(2);



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1 in substitution for an index number or amount previously published  
2 by the Statistician, disregard the publication of the later index  
3 number or amount for the purposes of this Part.

- 4 (2) If at any time (whether before or after the commencement of this  
5 Part), the Statistician changes the index reference period for:  
6 (a) the All Groups Consumer Price Index referred to in  
7 subsection 98B(3); or  
8 (b) the All Groups Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index  
9 referred to in subsection 98GD(1);  
10 then, for the purposes of applying this Part after the change takes  
11 place, have regard only to index numbers published in terms of the  
12 new index reference period.
- 13 (3) If at any time the Statistician changes the reference period for  
14 amounts of the kind referred to in subsection 98GE(2), then, for the  
15 purposes of applying this Part after the change takes place, have  
16 regard only to amounts published in terms of the new reference  
17 period.

### 18 **98AC Rounding of percentages**

19 If any of the following is or includes a fraction of one-tenth of 1%:

- 20 (a) the prescribed percentage;  
21 (b) the LCI percentage;  
22 (c) the 55-plus percentage;

23 then:

- 24 (d) disregard the fraction if it is less than half of one-tenth; and  
25 (e) otherwise—treat the fraction as if it were one-tenth.

## 26 **Division 2—General provisions about pension increases**

### 27 **98AD Simplified outline of this Division**

28 Certain pension benefits are indexed each 1 January and 1 July.

29 For pensioners aged under 55, the indexation is based on positive  
30 movements in the consumer price index.

1 For pensioners aged 55 or older, movements in the consumer price  
2 index are relevant, but they are only part of the indexation method.

3 For all pensioners, there are rules dealing with special cases  
4 including pension benefits that have only recently become payable  
5 and situations involving commutation of a portion of a pension  
6 benefit.

7 **7 Subsections 98B(1), (2) and (3)**

8 Repeal the subsections, substitute:

9 *Increase*

10 (1) Subject to this Part, a pensioner is entitled, at the commencement  
11 of a prescribed half-year, to an increase in the pensioner's relevant  
12 rate of pension benefit in relation to that half-year. The increase is  
13 worked out by using:

- 14 (a) if the pensioner is aged 55 or older at the commencement of  
15 the prescribed half-year—the 55-plus percentage; and  
16 (b) otherwise—the prescribed percentage.

17 *Increase by prescribed percentage*

18 (2) The increase provided for by subsection (1), for a pensioner aged  
19 under 55 at the commencement of a prescribed half-year (the  
20 **relevant prescribed half-year**), is the prescribed percentage of the  
21 pensioner's relevant rate of pension benefit in relation to the  
22 relevant prescribed half-year.

23 *Prescribed percentage*

24 (3) Subject to subsection (3A), the **prescribed percentage** for a  
25 prescribed half-year is:

26 
$$\frac{\text{First quarter CPI number} - \text{Base quarter CPI number}}{\text{Base quarter CPI number}} \times 100$$

27 where:

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1                    **base quarter CPI number** means the CPI number in respect of the  
2                    March quarter or September quarter that:

- 3                    (a) is before the first quarter of the half-year immediately before  
4                    the prescribed half-year; and  
5                    (b) has the highest CPI number.

6                    **CPI number**, in respect of a quarter, means the All Groups  
7                    Consumer Price Index number that is the weighted average of the 8  
8                    capital cities and is published by the Statistician in respect of the  
9                    quarter.

10                  **first quarter CPI number** means the CPI number in respect of the  
11                  first quarter of the half-year immediately before the prescribed  
12                  half-year.

- 13                  (3A) If the first quarter CPI number is equal to or less than the base  
14                  quarter CPI number, then, for the relevant prescribed half-year:  
15                  (a) the prescribed percentage is taken to be 0%; and  
16                  (b) subsection (1) does not provide for an increase for a  
17                  pensioner aged under 55 at the commencement of that  
18                  half-year.

19                                    *Relevant rate of pension benefit*

## 20                  **8 Subsection 98B(4)**

21                                    Omit “For the purpose of subsection (2), the relevant rate of pension  
22                                    benefit is”, substitute “The **relevant rate** of a pensioner’s pension  
23                                    benefit, in relation to a relevant prescribed half-year, is”.

## 24                  **9 After subsection 98B(4)**

25                                    Insert:

- 26                  (4A) For the purposes of paragraphs (4)(ab), (c) and (e), in working out  
27                  the rate at which invalidity pay or retirement pay would have been  
28                  payable to a deceased recipient member, work out any increases to  
29                  which the member would have been entitled on or after the later of:  
30                  (a) 1 July 2014; and  
31                  (b) the day of the member’s death;

1 using the pensioner's age at the time of the increase (not the age  
2 that the member would have been at that time, had the member not  
3 died).

4 **10 Before subsection 98B(5A)**

5 Insert:

6 *Increases in children's pensions*

7 **11 Before subsection 98B(7)**

8 Insert:

9 *Death of recipient member on 30 June or 31 December*

10 **12 At the end of Part XA**

11 Add:

12 **Division 3—Increase for pensioners aged 55 or older**

13 **98GA Simplified outline of this Division**

14 For pensioners aged 55 or older, indexation is based on the more  
15 favourable of positive movements in:

- 16 (a) the consumer price index (CPI); and  
17 (b) the pensioner and beneficiary living cost index (LCI);  
18 with an adjustment if needed to ensure that affected pension  
19 benefits are increased by at least the percentage required to  
20 maintain a hypothetical pension at 27.7% of male total average  
21 weekly earnings (MTAWE).

22 The hypothetical pension (called the indicative pension amount) is  
23 part of the method used to work out what the percentage increase  
24 should be (called the 55-plus percentage). The hypothetical  
25 pension does not represent the amount of any actual pension  
26 benefit, or the amount that any actual pension benefit should be. It  
27 is just a device to work out the percentage by which actual pension  
28 benefits should be increased.

Each 1 January and 1 July, the amount of the hypothetical pension, as indexed by the higher of CPI and LCI, is compared with what the amount of the hypothetical pension should be if it is to continue to be at least 27.7% of MTAWÉ. If the CPI/LCI result is higher than the MTAWÉ result, the 55-plus percentage is the higher of the percentage movements in CPI and LCI. If the MTAWÉ result is higher, the 55-plus percentage is the percentage increase needed to maintain the hypothetical pension at 27.7% of MTAWÉ.

Once the 55-plus percentage has been worked out, affected pension benefits are increased by that percentage.

### **98GB Increase for pensioners aged 55 or older**

*Increase by 55-plus percentage*

- (1) The increase provided for by subsection 98B(1), for a pensioner aged 55 or older at the commencement of a prescribed half-year (the **relevant prescribed half-year**), is the 55-plus percentage of the pensioner's relevant rate of pension benefit in relation to the relevant prescribed half-year.

*55-plus percentage*

- (2) This is how to work out the 55-plus percentage for the relevant prescribed half-year:

*Method statement*

- Step 1. Work out the prescribed percentage for the prescribed half-year.
- Step 2. Use section 98GD to work out the LCI percentage for the prescribed half-year.
- Step 3. Take the higher of the percentages worked out in steps 1 and 2. (If they are the same, use the step 1 percentage.) This is the **CPI/LCI percentage**.

- 1 Step 4. Take the indicative pension amount for the prescribed  
2 half-year immediately before the relevant prescribed  
3 half-year. This is the *current indicative pension amount*.
- 4 Step 5. Work out the amount that is the CPI/LCI percentage of  
5 the current indicative pension amount and add it to the  
6 current indicative pension amount. This is the *CPI/LCI*  
7 *result*.
- 8 Step 6. Use section 98GE to work out the MTAWWE result.
- 9 Step 7. If the CPI/LCI result is the same as or higher than the  
10 MTAWWE result, the *55-plus percentage* for the  
11 prescribed half-year is the CPI/LCI percentage. If the  
12 CPI/LCI result is lower than the MTAWWE result, the  
13 *55-plus percentage* for the prescribed half-year is the  
14 percentage worked out under section 98GF.

15 *Nil or negative change*

- 16 (3) If, for a prescribed half-year:
- 17 (a) the CPI/LCI result in step 5 is the same as the current  
18 indicative pension amount; and
- 19 (b) the MTAWWE result in step 6 is the same as or lower than the  
20 current indicative pension amount;
- 21 then, for that prescribed half-year:
- 22 (c) the 55-plus percentage is taken to be 0%; and
- 23 (d) subsection 98B(1) does not provide for an increase for a  
24 pensioner aged 55 or older at the commencement of that  
25 half-year.

### 26 **98GC Indicative pension amount**

- 27 (1) The *indicative pension amount* is:
- 28 (a) for the prescribed half-year commencing on 1 January  
29 2014—\$19,541.91; and
- 30 (b) for a later prescribed half-year—the amount most recently  
31 substituted in accordance with subsection (2).

1 Note: The indicative pension amount is a hypothetical amount that does not  
 2 represent the amount of any actual pension benefit, or the amount that  
 3 any actual pension benefit should be. It is just a device to work out the  
 4 percentage by which actual pension benefits should be increased.

5 (2) The indicative pension amount for the prescribed half-year  
 6 commencing on 1 January 2014 is to be increased, on 1 July 2014  
 7 and each later 1 January and 1 July, by the 55-plus percentage, as if  
 8 the amount were a pension benefit payable to a pensioner aged 55  
 9 or older on the day. Immediately after the increase, the increased  
 10 amount is substituted as the indicative pension amount.

11 (3) The reference in subsection (2) to the increased amount includes a  
 12 reference to an amount that, because the 55-plus percentage for a  
 13 prescribed half-year was 0%, has not changed.

#### 14 **98GD LCI percentage**

15 *LCI percentage*

16 (1) Subject to subsection (2), the *LCI percentage* for a prescribed  
 17 half-year is:

$$18 \frac{\text{First quarter LCI number} - \text{Base quarter LCI number}}{\text{Base quarter LCI number}} \times 100$$

19 where:

20 *base quarter LCI number* means the LCI number in respect of the  
 21 March quarter or September quarter that:

- 22 (a) is before the first quarter of the half-year immediately before  
 23 the prescribed half-year; and  
 24 (b) has the highest LCI number.

25 *first quarter LCI number* means the LCI number in respect of the  
 26 first quarter of the half-year immediately before the prescribed  
 27 half-year.

28 *LCI number*, in respect of a quarter, is the All Groups Pensioner  
 29 and Beneficiary Living Cost Index number that is the weighted  
 30 average of the 8 capital cities and is published by the Statistician in  
 31 respect of the quarter.

- 1                                            *Nil or negative change*
- 2                    (2) If the first quarter LCI number is equal to or less than the base
- 3                    quarter LCI number, the LCI percentage for the prescribed
- 4                    half-year is taken to be 0%.

5                    **98GE MTAWWE result**

- 6                    (1) For the purposes of step 6 of the method statement in
- 7                    subsection 98GB(2), the ***MTAWWE result*** is the amount that is
- 8                    27.7% of the annualised MTAWWE figure for the quarter for which
- 9                    the Statistician has most recently published the amount referred to
- 10                    in subsection (2).
- 11                    (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the ***annualised MTAWWE***
- 12                    ***figure***, for a quarter, is 52 times the amount set out for the
- 13                    reference period in the quarter under the headings “Average
- 14                    Weekly Earnings of Employees, Australia—Males—All males—
- 15                    Total earnings—ORIGINAL” in a document published by the
- 16                    Statistician entitled “Average Weekly Earnings, States and
- 17                    Australia”.
- 18                    (3) If at any time (whether before or after the commencement of this
- 19                    section), the Statistician publishes the amount referred to in
- 20                    subsection (2):
- 21                                       (a) under differently described headings (the ***new headings***); or
- 22                                       (b) in a document entitled otherwise than as described in
- 23                                       subsection (2) (the ***new document***);
- 24                    then the annualised MTAWWE figure is to be calculated in
- 25                    accordance with subsection (2) as if the references to:
- 26                                       (c) “Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, Australia—
- 27                                       Males—All males—Total earnings—ORIGINAL”; or
- 28                                       (d) “Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia”;
- 29                    were references to either of the new headings or the new document,
- 30                    or both of them, as the case requires.
- 31                    (4) For the purposes of this section, the ***reference period*** in a particular
- 32                    quarter is the period described by the Statistician as the pay period
- 33                    ending on or before a specified day that is the third Friday of the
- 34                    middle month of that quarter.



**98GF 55-plus percentage if MTAWWE result is higher**

For the purposes of step 7 of the method statement in subsection 98GB(2), if this section applies then the *55-plus percentage*, for the prescribed half-year, is:

$$\frac{\text{MTAWWE result} - \text{Current indicative pension amount}}{\text{Current indicative pension result}} \times 100$$

***Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948*****13 Before section 83**

Insert:

**Division 1—Introduction****83A Simplified outline of this Part**

Certain pensions are indexed each 1 January and 1 July.

For pensioners aged under 55, the indexation is based on positive movements in the consumer price index.

For pensioners aged 55 or older, the indexation is based on the more favourable of positive movements in:

- (a) the consumer price index; and
- (b) the pensioner and beneficiary living cost index;

with an adjustment if needed to ensure that affected pensions are increased by at least the percentage required to maintain a hypothetical pension at 27.7% of male total average weekly earnings.

**14 Section 83 (heading)**

Repeal the heading, substitute:

1 **83 Definitions**

2 **15 Subsection 83(1)**

3 Omit “(1)”.

4 **16 Subsection 83(1)**

5 Insert:

6 *55-plus percentage* has the meaning given by step 7 of the method  
7 statement in subsection 84H(2).

8 *current indicative pension amount* has the meaning given by step  
9 4 of the method statement in subsection 84H(2).

10 *December quarter* means the quarter ending on 31 December.

11 *indicative pension amount* has the meaning given by  
12 subsection 84J(1).

13 *June quarter* means the quarter ending on 30 June.

14 *LCI percentage* (short for living cost index percentage) has the  
15 meaning given by section 84K.

16 *March quarter* means the quarter ending on 31 March.

17 *pensioner* means a person to whom a pension is payable.

18 *prescribed percentage* has the meaning given by subsection 84(3).

19 *September quarter* means the quarter ending on 30 September.

20 **17 Subsections 83(2), (3) and (4)**

21 Repeal the subsections.

22 **18 After section 83**

23 Insert:

24 **83B Substitutions and changes by Statistician**

25 (1) Subject to subsection (2), if at any time (whether before or after the  
26 commencement of this Part) the Statistician publishes:

- 1 (a) an index number of the kind referred to in subsection 84(3) or  
 2 84K(1); or  
 3 (b) an amount of the kind referred to in subsection 84L(2);  
 4 in substitution for an index number or amount previously published  
 5 by the Statistician, disregard the publication of the later index  
 6 number or amount for the purposes of this Part.
- 7 (2) If at any time (whether before or after the commencement of this  
 8 Part), the Statistician changes the index reference period for:  
 9 (a) the All Groups Consumer Price Index referred to in  
 10 subsection 84(3); or  
 11 (b) the All Groups Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index  
 12 referred to in subsection 84K(1);  
 13 then, for the purposes of applying this Part after the change takes  
 14 place, have regard only to index numbers published in terms of the  
 15 new index reference period.
- 16 (3) If at any time the Statistician changes the reference period for  
 17 amounts of the kind referred to in subsection 84L(2), then, for the  
 18 purposes of applying this Part after the change takes place, have  
 19 regard only to amounts published in terms of the new reference  
 20 period.

### 21 **83C Rounding of percentages**

- 22 If any of the following is or includes a fraction of one-tenth of 1%:  
 23 (a) the prescribed percentage;  
 24 (b) the LCI percentage;  
 25 (c) the 55-plus percentage;  
 26 then:  
 27 (d) disregard the fraction if it is less than half of one-tenth; and  
 28 (e) otherwise—treat the fraction as if it were one-tenth.

## 29 **Division 2—General provisions about pension increases**

### 30 **83D Simplified outline of this Division**

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Certain pensions are indexed each 1 January and 1 July.
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For pensioners aged under 55, the indexation is based on positive movements in the consumer price index.

For pensioners aged 55 or older, movements in the consumer price index are relevant, but they are only part of the indexation method.

For all pensioners, there are rules dealing with special cases including pensions that have only recently become payable and situations involving commutation of a portion of a pension.

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## 19 Subsections 84(1), (2) and (3)

Repeal the subsections, substitute:

10

### *Increase*

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(1) Subject to this Part, a pensioner is entitled, at the commencement of a prescribed half-year, to an increase in the rate at which a pension was payable to the pensioner immediately before that commencement. The increase is worked out by using:

- (a) if the pensioner is aged 55 or older at that commencement—the 55-plus percentage; and
- (b) otherwise—the prescribed percentage.

18

### *Increase by prescribed percentage*

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23

(2) The increase provided for by subsection (1), for a pensioner aged under 55 at the commencement of a prescribed half-year (the **relevant prescribed half-year**), is the prescribed percentage of the rate at which a pension was payable to the pensioner immediately before the commencement of the relevant prescribed half-year.

24

### *Prescribed percentage*

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(3) Subject to subsection (3A), the **prescribed percentage** for a prescribed half-year is:

27

$$\frac{\text{First quarter CPI number} - \text{Base quarter CPI number}}{\text{Base quarter CPI number}} \times 100$$

28

where:

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1                    **base quarter CPI number** means the CPI number in respect of the  
2                    March quarter or September quarter that:

- 3                    (a) is before the first quarter of the half-year immediately before  
4                    the prescribed half-year; and  
5                    (b) has the highest CPI number.

6                    **CPI number**, in respect of a quarter, means the All Groups  
7                    Consumer Price Index number that is the weighted average of the 8  
8                    capital cities and is published by the Statistician in respect of the  
9                    quarter.

10                   **first quarter CPI number** means the CPI number in respect of the  
11                   first quarter of the half-year immediately before the prescribed  
12                   half-year.

- 13                   (3A) If the first quarter CPI number is equal to or less than the base  
14                   quarter CPI number, then, for the relevant prescribed half-year:  
15                   (a) the prescribed percentage is taken to be 0%; and  
16                   (b) subsection (1) does not provide for an increase for a  
17                   pensioner aged under 55 at the commencement of that  
18                   half-year.

19                   *Death of recipient member on 30 June or 31 December*

## 20 **At the end of Part VID**

21                   Add:

### 22 **Division 3—Increase for pensioners aged 55 or older**

#### 23 **84G Simplified outline of this Division**

24                   For pensioners aged 55 or older, indexation is based on the more  
25                   favourable of positive movements in:

- 26                   (a) the consumer price index (CPI); and  
27                   (b) the pensioner and beneficiary living cost index (LCI);

28                   with an adjustment if needed to ensure that affected pensions are  
29                   increased by at least the percentage required to maintain a  
30                   hypothetical pension at 27.7% of male total average weekly  
31                   earnings (MTAWE).

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The hypothetical pension (called the indicative pension amount) is part of the method used to work out what the percentage increase should be (called the 55-plus percentage). The hypothetical pension does not represent the amount of any actual pension, or the amount that any actual pension should be. It is just a device to work out the percentage by which actual pensions should be increased.

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Each 1 January and 1 July, the amount of the hypothetical pension, as indexed by the higher of CPI and LCI, is compared with what the amount of the hypothetical pension should be if it is to continue to be at least 27.7% of MTAW. If the CPI/LCI result is higher than the MTAW result, the 55-plus percentage is the higher of the percentage movements in CPI and LCI. If the MTAW result is higher, the 55-plus percentage is the percentage increase needed to maintain the hypothetical pension at 27.7% of MTAW.

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Once the 55-plus percentage has been worked out, affected pensions are increased by that percentage.

18

#### **84H Increase for pensioners aged 55 or older**

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*Increase by 55-plus percentage*

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- (1) The increase provided for by subsection 84(1), for a pensioner aged 55 or older at the commencement of a prescribed half-year (the *relevant prescribed half-year*), is the 55-plus percentage of the rate at which a pension was payable to the pensioner immediately before the commencement of the relevant prescribed half-year.

25

*55-plus percentage*

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- (2) This is how to work out the 55-plus percentage for the relevant prescribed half-year:

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*Method statement*

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Step 1. Work out the prescribed percentage for the prescribed half-year.

- 1 Step 2. Use section 84K to work out the LCI percentage for the  
2 prescribed half-year.
- 3 Step 3. Take the higher of the percentages worked out in steps 1  
4 and 2. (If they are the same, use the step 1 percentage.)  
5 This is the **CPI/LCI percentage**.
- 6 Step 4. Take the indicative pension amount for the prescribed  
7 half-year immediately before the relevant prescribed  
8 half-year. This is the **current indicative pension amount**.
- 9 Step 5. Work out the amount that is the CPI/LCI percentage of  
10 the current indicative pension amount and add it to the  
11 current indicative pension amount. This is the **CPI/LCI**  
12 **result**.
- 13 Step 6. Use section 84L to work out the MTAWÉ result.
- 14 Step 7. If the CPI/LCI result is the same as or higher than the  
15 MTAWÉ result, the **55-plus percentage** for the  
16 prescribed half-year is the CPI/LCI percentage. If the  
17 CPI/LCI result is lower than the MTAWÉ result, the  
18 **55-plus percentage** for the prescribed half-year is the  
19 percentage worked out under section 84M.

20 *Nil or negative change*

- 21 (3) If, for a prescribed half-year:
- 22 (a) the CPI/LCI result in step 5 is the same as the current  
23 indicative pension amount; and
- 24 (b) the MTAWÉ result in step 6 is the same as or lower than the  
25 current indicative pension amount;
- 26 then, for that prescribed half-year:
- 27 (c) the 55-plus percentage is taken to be 0%; and
- 28 (d) subsection 84(1) does not provide for an increase for a  
29 pensioner aged 55 or older at the commencement of that  
30 half-year.

1 **84J Indicative pension amount**

2 (1) The *indicative pension amount* is:

3 (a) for the prescribed half-year commencing on 1 January  
4 2014—\$19,541.91; and

5 (b) for a later prescribed half-year—the amount most recently  
6 substituted in accordance with subsection (2).

7 Note: The indicative pension amount is a hypothetical amount that does not  
8 represent the amount of any actual pension, or the amount that any  
9 actual pension should be. It is just a device to work out the percentage  
10 by which actual pensions should be increased.

11 (2) The indicative pension amount for the prescribed half-year  
12 commencing on 1 January 2014 is to be increased, on 1 July 2014  
13 and each later 1 January and 1 July, by the 55-plus percentage, as if  
14 the amount were a pension payable to a pensioner aged 55 or older  
15 on the day. Immediately after the increase, the increased amount is  
16 substituted as the indicative pension amount.

17 (3) The reference in subsection (2) to the increased amount includes a  
18 reference to an amount that, because the 55-plus percentage for a  
19 prescribed half-year was 0%, has not changed.

20 **84K LCI percentage**

21 *LCI percentage*

22 (1) Subject to subsection (2), the *LCI percentage* for a prescribed  
23 half-year is:

24 
$$\frac{\text{First quarter LCI number} - \text{Base quarter LCI number}}{\text{Base quarter LCI number}} \times 100$$

25 where:

26 *base quarter LCI number* means the LCI number in respect of the  
27 March quarter or September quarter that:

28 (a) is before the first quarter of the half-year immediately before  
29 the prescribed half-year; and

30 (b) has the highest LCI number.



1            **first quarter LCI number** means the LCI number in respect of the  
2            first quarter of the half-year immediately before the prescribed  
3            half-year.

4            **LCI number**, in respect of a quarter, is the All Groups Pensioner  
5            and Beneficiary Living Cost Index number that is the weighted  
6            average of the 8 capital cities and is published by the Statistician in  
7            respect of the quarter.

8            *Nil or negative change*

- 9            (2) If the first quarter LCI number is equal to or less than the base  
10            quarter LCI number, the LCI percentage for the prescribed  
11            half-year is taken to be 0%.

## 12            **84L MTAWWE result**

- 13            (1) For the purposes of step 6 of the method statement in  
14            subsection 84H(2), the **MTAWWE result** is the amount that is 27.7%  
15            of the annualised MTAWWE figure for the quarter for which the  
16            Statistician has most recently published the amount referred to in  
17            subsection (2).

- 18            (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the **annualised MTAWWE**  
19            **figure**, for a quarter, is 52 times the amount set out for the  
20            reference period in the quarter under the headings “Average  
21            Weekly Earnings of Employees, Australia—Males—All males—  
22            Total earnings—ORIGINAL” in a document published by the  
23            Statistician entitled “Average Weekly Earnings, States and  
24            Australia”.

- 25            (3) If at any time (whether before or after the commencement of this  
26            section), the Statistician publishes the amount referred to in  
27            subsection (2):

- 28                    (a) under differently described headings (the **new headings**); or  
29                    (b) in a document entitled otherwise than as described in  
30                    subsection (2) (the **new document**);

31            then the annualised MTAWWE figure is to be calculated in  
32            accordance with subsection (2) as if the references to:

- 33                    (c) “Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, Australia—  
34                    Males—All males—Total earnings—ORIGINAL”; or

1 (d) “Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia”;  
2 were references to either of the new headings or the new document,  
3 or both of them, as the case requires.

4 (4) For the purposes of this section, the *reference period* in a particular  
5 quarter is the period described by the Statistician as the pay period  
6 ending on or before a specified day that is the third Friday of the  
7 middle month of that quarter.

8 **84M 55-plus percentage if MTAWWE result is higher**

9 For the purposes of step 7 of the method statement in  
10 subsection 84H(2), if this section applies then the *55-plus*  
11 *percentage*, for the prescribed half-year, is:

12 
$$\frac{\text{MTAWWE result} - \text{Current indicative pension amount}}{\text{Current indicative pension amount}} \times 100$$

13 **21 Application provision**

14 The amendments made by this Schedule apply in relation to working  
15 out increases for:

- 16 (a) the prescribed half-year commencing on 1 July 2014; and  
17 (b) later prescribed half-years.

18 **22 Transitional provision—operation of Division 293 of the**  
19 ***Income Tax Assessment Act 1997***

20 In working out the amount of a person’s defined benefit contributions  
21 for the purposes of Division 293 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*  
22 *1997*, disregard any amount that represents the increase in the value of  
23 the accrued retirement benefit as at 1 July 2014 (if any) that accrued to  
24 the person as a result of the amendments made by this Schedule.