

Ageing Better

Putting Older People at the Heart of the Next Government

Priority Asks for General Election 2020

Age Action and **Active Retirement Ireland** are calling on the next Government to plan sufficiently for an ageing population to ensure that people remain active, engaged, and valued in their communities for as long as feasible, with choice and control over their lives, regardless of their age.

As the population demographic in Ireland is changing, the next government has both the opportunity and responsibility to create a society where everyone in Ireland has the potential to age well.

Ireland has an ageing population. **In the next 20 years, an estimated one in four of us will be over the age of 65.**

To effectively plan for successful ageing, we are calling for ageing to be at the centre of the next Government's agenda by adopting a whole-of-Government approach to ageing and a lifecourse approach to policymaking.



1

APPOINT A SENIOR MINISTER FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities of ageing requires a whole-of-Government approach. Appoint a senior Minister for Older People, within the Department of An Taoiseach, with priority actions of developing a strategy that will respond to the needs of our ageing demographic.

2

DEPOLITICISE THE STATE PENSION

Indexing of current and future pension rates facilitates proper planning, it provides peace of mind for older workers and crucially it depoliticises the budget process. The next Government should benchmark the State Pension to 34% of average weekly earnings and apply a triple lock which guarantees that the basic rate rises each year by a minimum of 2.5%, the rate of inflation or average earnings growth (whichever is the largest).



3

SUSPEND THE PLANNED INCREASE IN THE STATE PENSION AGE TO 67 IN 2021

In the context of proposed increases to the State pension ages in the near future and the on-going lack of clarity around the new rules, it is simply not fair to raise the State pension age without adequate time for us all to prepare.

The increase in the pension age to 68 will mean a cut of nearly 10% in pension income over a person's lifetime in retirement.



4

APPOINT A COMMISSIONER FOR AGEING WITH STATUTORY POWERS TO SUPPORT THEIR MANDATE

Many older people feel left behind in the eyes of policymakers. An independent champion and advisor to government in the form of a Commissioner for Ageing is vital to promote cohesive, efficient, best practice government policy and services for our ageing population.



5

TAKE AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION CONSISTENT WITH CLIMATE JUSTICE TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Climate action policies must be designed in such a way that the people and communities most vulnerable to negative impacts are identified and given voice so that measures are put in place to protect them and to enable them to reap the benefits of climate action.



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