



Support Age Action's Budget Campaign

Introduction

We need your help to deliver a fair deal for older people in Budget 2019 on 9 October.

Our policy team has outlined what older people need in a series of submissions to Government departments. We are meeting with TDs and Ministers to argue for more support for older people. Our submissions are online at www.ageaction.ie/budget2019.

BUT WE WILL NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

We need you, your family and your friends to contact your local TDs and encourage them to deliver a budget that is fair to older people in Ireland.

The more of you who contact your TD, the better we will do. It's that simple.

What is Age Action asking for?

We are making submissions to six different Government departments but the following are our top priorities:

1. Increase the weekly **State Pension** by €5 per week to build towards achieving the Government's commitment in the National Pensions Framework of a State Pension set at 35 per cent of average weekly earnings
2. Increase the cost of the **Living Alone Allowance** by €3 per week
3. Reverse the **changes introduced in 2012 to the State Pension** system reducing the number of bands from six to four
4. Increase the **Home Supports** budget by 26% to begin to meet unmet need
5. As a first step towards reinstating the over 70s medical card, expand the range of services provided by the GP visit card to include **prescriptions to those over 70**
6. Remove the **GMS prescription charge** for over 70s medical card holders

These are the things we are asking you to raise with your elected representative.

Who should we speak to?

The Government will decide what is spent in this year's budget. It is helpful to speak to **ALL** your local TDs, but it is **most useful** to speak to Government TDs – members of Fine Gael and some of the Independent TDs supporting the Government.

How should we contact them?

You can contact your TD in lots of ways. The most effective way is to ask to meet him or her. If that is not possible, you can contact them by phone, email or by letter.

All TDs can be contacted through the Leinster House switchboard at 01 618 3000.

What should we say?

Introduce yourself and **be sure to inform the TD that you are a constituent.**

Tell them you are hoping the Government will deliver a fair deal for older people in the budget and tell them your story.

Point out that the incomes of older people have not recovered from the Recession but we face increasing prices and new taxes. That's why poverty rates are slow to increase for people aged over 65.

Remind them that there are huge waiting lists for home care packages. This is causing problems for older people, for their families and has forced many older people into nursing homes.

Be polite, but tell your TD your experience, how important these changes are to you.

What should we ask them to do?

You should ask them if they support Age Action's call for an increase in the State Pension and for more money to be invested in home care.

If they do, ask them if they will write to the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform to express this support.

If they do not, ask if it would be helpful if someone from Age Action's head office was to meet them and tell them we are happy to do so.

Can I get some advice or more information?

No problem. You can contact Corona on 01 475 6989 or email info@ageaction.ie

END

2 October 2018