

Pensioners – Heating Allowance

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for HOUSING and PLANNING

My question is on behalf of my constituent Joey Langley. The *Pensioners (Heating Allowance) Act 1971* provides for a heating allowance for Tasmanian pensioners. When the act came into effect, pensioners could apply for a \$30-a-year allowance to assist with their heating expenses. Fifty-five years later, this figure has increased to the grand sum of \$56 a year. Other states with similar provisions assist significantly more. For example, people on a pension in New South Wales can apply for \$313.50, and in South Australia the figure is around \$282.

Joey says he is struggling to make ends meet on a pension and this severely impacts his mental health. He asks: why hasn't the heating allowance been increased in Tasmania, and will you increase this allowance to assist with increasing energy bills, to reduce financial and other stress and to help people on pensions be both warmer and healthier?