



Superannuated
Commonwealth
Officers'
Association
(Federal Council) Inc.

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Dr Mike Kelly MP
PO Box 1244
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Dear Mike

I write to congratulate you on your return to Parliament after the recent federal election, both personally and on behalf of SCOA and all our members.

One of SCOA's main objectives over a long period of time has been achieving a fairer indexation of our pensions. Although we realise that in the current financial and economic conditions, our chances of achieving this goal are pretty remote, should economic conditions improve in the future, we will increase our efforts to secure a more appropriate method of indexation.

Meanwhile, in the next twelve months, we will focus on a number of other issues including the resetting of the taper rate for the Age Pension assets test; an adjustment of the deeming rate to bring it more into line with the current level of interest rates; some taxation issues, and, most importantly, repealing the *Social Services Legislation (Defined Benefit Income Streams) Act 2015*. This legislation has impacted badly on many thousands of defined benefit superannuants by reducing their Age Pension significantly, even in some cases to zero. SCOA will not give up on this issue.

We welcomed the ALP's call during the recent election campaign for a thorough review of the superannuation system and its interaction with the welfare system. There have been too many *ad hoc* changes to superannuation that appear to be motivated more by a desire to achieve short-term savings than by an integrated plan to devise a robust, equitable and affordable system that will not require more tinkering in the future. SCOA would very much like to be part of such a review.

Again, congratulations on a successful campaign. I would be delighted to meet with you as soon as you have settled in your new office, and discuss the above issues and many others.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'A. J. Barbetti'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Dr Annette Barbetti
FEDERAL PRESIDENT