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## **Govt super plan should include sitting MPs – Andren**

The Government's proposal can and should be applied to currently serving MPs and Senators, or an opt-clause included for those who wish to get out the scheme, according to Peter Andren, Member for Calare.

"My legal advice this afternoon says there appears to be no Constitutional impediment for varying pension entitlements for sitting MPs," Mr Andren said.

"Mr Latham said applying the scheme to current parliamentarians is impossible because the government would have to compensate them. This is not supported by a High Court precedent in the case: *Health Insurance Commission v Peverill* (1994).

"In that case, the government retrospectively reduced the bulk billing rate payable to pathologists, and a Dr Peverill sought compensation at the higher rate.

"The court rejected this claim, stating that payment should be made at the rate which applies when the claim for payment is made.

"As a result, the government's reduced rate was in place and compensation did not have to be paid.

"Since MPs retirement payments are not defined until they actually retire, a fair and reasonable amount should be placed in a new scheme, or better, a fund of the MP's choice, to level the playing field between serving and new MPs.

"I am exploring means by which an opt-out clause for current MPs and Senators could be included in the PM's legislation when he presents it to Parliament.

"The WA government introduced a new scheme complete with a clause allowing existing MPs to swap over and I think this should apply federally.

"The PM says when he comes across a good idea he acts on them immediately. My bill to allow MPs to get out this long discredited super scheme has been on the table four years and is ready to go," Mr Andren said.

**For further information: 02 6332 6229 or 0419 612 891.**