



17 June 2004

M
e
d
i
a

R
e
l
e
a
s
e

Labor stunt on MPs' super

The Federal Opposition today voted to cap the pension payout for the Prime Minister, Opposition leader and ministers, but won't be insisting on the changes when the Parliamentary Superannuation Bill goes back to the to the Senate, according to Peter Andren, Member for Calare.

"I abstained from voting in this stunt, refusing to dignify the utter hypocrisy of both opposition and government as they scramble to claim the high moral ground on MPs' superannuation.

"This is an appalling betrayal of the principles spelt out by Opposition Leader Mark Latham when he picked up on my long campaign to reform the MPs super scheme.

"The Labor Party also failed to support my amendment to allow sitting MPs to opt out of the existing scheme, even though the Australian Democrats moved my amendment in the Senate.

"The government says it cannot allow sitting members to opt out because it would lead to 'double dipping'. This is nonsense. If you opt out, you accept the transfer of your contributions plus a top-up determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

"From that point, provided you are re-elected, you receive just the 9% employer contribution like every other new MP after the next election.

"The opt-out provision applies in West Australia, but the government pretends it is too difficult for the federal parliament, and opposition leader Mark Latham has bluntly told me it is a 'shame out' and his party won't support it.

"So after all the histrionics and hypocritical rhetoric from both the Coalition and Labor, the 'reforms' to the parliamentary superannuation scheme are set to pass the senate with only the Australian Democrats and Greens and insisting on including all MPs under the reforms," Mr Andren said.

For further information: 026277 2341 or 0419 612 891