



## Support Age Action's Budget Campaign

### Introduction

We need your help to deliver a budget for older people on 11 October.

Our policy team has outlined what older people need in a series of submissions to various Government departments. We are meeting with TDs and Ministers to argue for more support for older people. All of these submissions are online at [www.ageaction.ie/budget2017](http://www.ageaction.ie/budget2017).

### **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 in October that will make a real difference for **all** 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 seven different Government departments and writing to other Ministers, but the following are our top priorities:

- 1. Increase the State Pension by €5 a week.**
2. Reverse the cuts to the Telephone Allowance and the Fuel Allowance.
- 3. An extra €74 million for home help and home care services.**
4. Abolition of prescription charges,

These are the things we are asking you to raise with your elected representative. There are many other issues we are raising with the relevant Ministers, too many to bring up in any one call, so these are the ones we're asking people to focus on.

### Who should we speak to?

The Government will decide what is spent in this year's budget. It is helpful to speak to your local TD, 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 budget in October that will help older people.

Point out that older people lost more than €13 a week during the recession and a lot of those cuts have not been reversed. We also face higher prices and new taxes like the Property Tax.

Remind them that **politicians from many parties promised to increase the pension by at least €25 over five years** before the election and ask them to keep that promise and to reverse the cuts to the Fuel Allowance and the Telephone Allowance.

Remind them as well **all parties say they want to support older people to stay at home** as long as possible but home help hours have been cut and 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 Public Expenditure, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Social Protection 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 Justin or Naomi on 01 475 6989 or email [info@ageaction.ie](mailto:info@ageaction.ie)

**END**

**28 September 2016**