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The Hon Rob Lucas
State Treasurer of South Australia
Level 8, State Administration Centre,
200 Victoria Square,
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17 May 2020

Dear Mr Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2020. Life in Australia has changed more since that date than any of us would have previously thought possible. These changes have put quite a different perspective on the matter this Association has been discussing with you and that was dealt with in your 21 March letter. This was the possibility of improving net incomes for many recipients of State Scheme pensions by a change in taxation status for some of these pensions. Now, this seems a much smaller matter than it did previously. The current letter is to let you know that the Association wants the State Government to keep up the good work done so far and continue giving close attention to the health and economic risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our members are exposed to a relatively high health risk from this pandemic and we consider ourselves fortunate to live in a society that values the health and lives of its elderly citizens.

We are very conscious of the fact that the economic consequences of the current crisis are much greater for younger people than for retirees and we have been shocked by the massive job losses experienced as industries have closed down to contain the spread of COVID-19. Our thoughts are with these younger people and the severe financial hardship that has hit so many of them without warning.

We support the efforts being made now by all Australian governments to alleviate financial hardship caused by COVID-19 and felt mainly by younger Australians. At the time of writing, these efforts seem to have spared older Australians from the dreadful consequences experienced in other countries. This is an aspect of the crisis we will not forget. We are, of course, always going to be alert to ways in which our members may benefit from improvements to our pension arrangements. However, in the current crisis situation our intention is first and foremost to support your government's efforts to address those issues mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Brenton Pain, Secretary