



**Government  
of South Australia**

**Treasurer**

Level 8  
State Administration Centre  
200 Victoria Square  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 2264  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 56203 Victoria Square  
Tel 08 8226 1866  
treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

TRS21D0987

Mr Brenton Pain  
Secretary  
SA Superannuants  
GPO Box 2036  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

[brenton.pain@outlook.com](mailto:brenton.pain@outlook.com)

Dear Mr Pain

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 2021, in which you ask that the State Government considers aligning the provisions relating to spouses of deceased State Pension Scheme members with those in comparable civilian Commonwealth schemes.

In particular, you suggest that a spouse be provided the equivalent of a deceased member's full pension for a period of seven fortnights from the date of death, before reverting to the existing statutory entitlement of two-thirds (or 67%) of the pension.

You state that alignment with Commonwealth schemes could provide a substantial benefit for members of the Pension Scheme, ensuring continuity of income for a set period. You consider that this approach could help alleviate financial and other difficulties experienced following the death of a partner.

As you know, the State Pension Scheme is a closed defined benefit scheme. I am advised that as at 30 June 2021, there are 13,928 superannuants receiving a fortnightly pension.

The majority of public sector employees are members of the Triple S Scheme, an accumulation-style superannuation fund where retirement benefits are based on a member's account balance, generally comprising mandated employer superannuation contributions (currently 10% of salary) together with any voluntary member contributions, plus interest, less fees and taxes.

The retirement benefits provided from the Pension Scheme are already considerably more generous than those from Triple S, and any proposal to enhance the Pension Scheme entitlements would increase the disparity of benefits between these two schemes.

As the benefits of the Pension Scheme are set out in the *Superannuation Act 1988*, any changes to these entitlements would also require legislative amendments, which would be subject to the Parliamentary process.

I am advised that Super SA's current practice of collecting relevant evidence prior to establishing a spouse pension ensures that the pension is paid to an eligible spouse and prevents the overpayment of income.

It remains the Government's view that closed schemes should continue to operate under the existing rules. The significant effort required for legislative change, followed by system, process and communication expenses would not be warranted to introduce changes beneficial to those few remaining members, noting that the requested features have not been available to previous members of the Pension Scheme.

Due to the already generous benefits provided from the closed Pension Scheme and the high costs associated with making changes to these entitlements, the Government does not intend to introduce further amendments at this time.

I trust that the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Rob Lucas MLC**  
*Treasurer*

13 October 2021