



**MARINIS**  
FINANCIAL GROUP

**T** 08 8130 5130  
**F** 08 8331 9161  
**E** admin@marinigroup.com.au  
**W** marinigroup.com.au  
**A** 49 Beulah Road  
NORWOOD SA 5067

6th April 2020

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
House of Representative Parliament House  
PO Box 6022  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

*Mr Morrison*

**Centrelink Pension Asset Test – Bringing forward the six-monthly update cycle**

Amidst the multiple challenges with which you are presently dealing, there is one which is significantly affecting the 'quiet' older Australians.

This particular challenge relates to the measures currently in place for updating the asset values of Centrelink part-pensioners following the substantial fall in investment markets. Currently, tens of thousands of pensioners with a part-pension entitlement will not be due for an automatic benefit adjustment until August 2020.

To update their asset values earlier – a need which is becoming increasingly more urgent – Age Pensioners have the option of presenting at Centrelink in person, communicating by mail or via the MyGov website.

Their ability to achieve any measure of success is compounded and impeded by the pressure being experienced by Centrelink on all contact fronts, the need for senior people to self-isolate, and the fact that many older Australians do not have the IT skills or even the hardware to use the MyGov option.

**I write to propose therefore, that the government consider bringing forward the scheduled automated six-monthly update cycle to May 2020.**

A 'bring-forward' move would have the potential to lessen the Centrelink workload, and provide stress relief for pensioners until such time as increases to Age Pensions begin to take effect, or the health crisis shows some signs of ending.

As you are well aware, it will be at this time when we will need people to have the confidence to begin resuming their normal lives, including spending, in order to bring about economic recovery.

On a separate issue, I was encouraged by the recently announced changes to superannuation regulations, which were in line with what I and others within our industry had been advocating.

2.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on the strength of your leadership and what has been achieved to date by the cohesive workings of your National Cabinet during this adversity. It is at times like this that I find myself even more proud to be Australian.

Yours sincerely,

**Theo Marinjs B.A., B.Ec., CPA, CFP®**  
**Financial Strategist**  
**Authorised Representative**

CC Federal Treasurer Mr Josh Frydenberg  
Federal Opposition Leader Mr Anthony Albanese  
Federal Shadow Treasurer Mr Jim Chalmers  
SA Premier Mr Steven Marshall  
SA Treasurer Mr Rob Lucas



**MARINIS**  
FINANCIAL GROUP