

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 4

**Question No:** 129

**Topic:** Age Pension

**Hansard Page:** 14/02/2013 CA60

**Senator Furner** asked:

Can you provide a comparison between the maximum rate of pension since the 2009 pension reforms and that of a decade ago?

**Answer:** From 20 March 2013, the single maximum rate of pension is \$808.40 a fortnight. This has increased from \$448.96 a fortnight on 20 March 2003, an increase of \$359.44 or 80.1 per cent in the last decade.

The table below sets out the relevant rates for single pensioners and for couples combined.

		<b>20/03/2003</b>	<b>20/03/2013</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percentage Difference</b>
<b>Single</b>	Fortnight	\$448.96	\$808.40	\$359.44	80.1%
	Annual	\$11,673.00	\$21,018.40	\$9,345.40	80.1%
<b>Couple combined</b>	Fortnight	\$743.66	\$1,218.80	\$475.14	63.9%
	Annual	\$19,335.20	\$31,688.80	\$12,353.60	63.9%

Note: These figures include the relevant supplementary payments available at the point in time. For example, the current maximum rate of pension includes the Pension Supplement and the Clean Energy Supplement.