

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 669**

**Topic: Increasing the Age Pension Qualifying Age to 70**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

In 2009, the Harmer review recommended that the age pension qualifying age be increased from 65 by somewhere between 2 and 4 years. The government at the time agreed to increase the age to 67 by 2023, well within the recommendations of the Harmer Review. Has the Government commissioned any reviews on the age pension qualifying age by external experts since coming to government to last year?

- a. If not, what evidence was used to justify increasing the age pension age to 70, in direct contradiction to the recommendations of the Harmer Review?
- b. Please go through the evidence that justifies this increase, when the Harmer Review so clearly recommended against it.

**Answer:**

No, the current Government has not commissioned an external review.

- a) The Harmer Review found that *“there is a case for a phased increase in the Age Pension age starting from 2014, when the Age Pension age for women will be the same as for men. Such a policy would improve retirement outcomes and support Australia’s capacity to address the impact of population ageing. It would reflect the strong increases in life expectancy the nation has experienced, which are expected to continue.”* The Review canvassed an increase up to 69 years in 2029 but did not make any direct recommendations.
- b) The Harmer Review did not make any direct recommendations.