

A New Voice for Secure Retirement in Australia

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Leaders from across a spectrum of industry and community groups have united to champion the need for Australians to have sustainable retirement incomes.

Representatives from the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), Committee for Sustainable Retirement Incomes (CSRI), Council on the Ageing (COTA Australia), Industry Super Australia (ISA) and National Seniors Australia (NSA) met at the Hyatt in Canberra this week for the inaugural *Sustainable Retirement Incomes Leadership Forum*.

The Committee for Sustainable Retirement Incomes, which held the forum, is an independent not for profit organisation that acts as a catalyst to bring about sustainable retirement. It is not beholden to any particular commercial interests.

The Leadership Forum brought together Government, Opposition, industry, academics, media and community leaders to debate the issues and promote an informed and purposeful retirement-income reform agenda for Australia.

Executive director and founder of the Committee for Sustainable Retirement Incomes, Patricia Pascuzzo, said the core objectives endorsed by the Leadership Forum were firstly to **alleviate poverty in old age** and secondly to **facilitate adequate living standards for all**.

“Australia requires a-whole-of-Government retirement income strategy that includes the superannuation system, an adequate age pension, and encourages individuals to self-fund their retirement,” she said.

“Given the significant interrelationships between the superannuation, age pension and taxation systems, the Leadership Forum considers that clear overarching objectives are needed for the whole retirement income system,” Ms Pascuzzo said.

Government must define the objectives of the retirement income system to create a framework to guide coherent policy development.

Focussing on the two core objectives should temper suggestions that the system pursues other goals such as wealth creation, estate planning, increasing national savings and investment in infrastructure or non-retirement expenditures.

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