



Office of Hon John Carter

MP for Northland
Minister of Civil Defence
Minister for Senior Citizens
Minister for Racing

Associate Minister of Local Government

29 JUL 2009

Ms Liz Baxendine
National President
Age Concern New Zealand
PO Box 10 688
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Liz

You will be aware that entitlement to New Zealand Superannuation is again in the news. The Opposition Finance Spokesperson, Hon David Cunliffe recently told the "Mood of the Boardroom" that he has not "closed the door on re-examining questions of the age of entitlement".

These comments have the potential to undermine the rights enjoyed by older New Zealanders.

I write to reassure you and your members that this National Government has closed that door.

I'd like to endorse the recent words from the Prime Minister and repeat the assurances we have made to you, your organisation and all older New Zealanders. I'd also appreciate it if you would pass my message onto your members.

This Government is committed to keeping existing Superannuation entitlements, which will continue to be paid from age 65,

These settings are affordable and are built into long-term spending plans, as set out in the Budget.

Thank you for the work you do, and your commitment to New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,

Hon John Carter
Minister for Senior Citizens