PRESS STATEMENT

MALCOLM FRASER

February 7th, 1961

A REMINDER TO ALL PENSIONERS OR POTENTIAL PENSIONERS

Malcolm Fraser today issued a reminder that early in March the new Merged Means Test will come into operation. Every person who is getting a pension, but not the full pension, should make application to the Social Services Branch to have his or her pension reviewed to see whether or not under the Merged Means Test they are entitled to a higher pension.

Further, all those people who might previously have been refused a pension on the grounds of property or who have not applied for a pension because they thought they had too much property or income should have a look at the position to see whether or not they might be eligible when the new scheme comes into operation.

Broadly speaking the income side of the Means Test is not altered, but whereas the old Means Test cut out property for any single person who had more than £2,250, under the new scheme the pension will not cut out property until that person has over £4,500. To give an example of how the alteration can affect pensions payable - a person with £2,250 property, but with no income, under the old scheme would get £60 pension. Under the new Merged Means Test that person would get £240 pension. When I speak of property it should be remembered that a person’s home, car and personal effects are entirely excluded from property.

If any person is in doubt as to whether he or she is eligible for a higher pension the best thing to do is to make enquiries to find out - nothing is lost if the enquiries are made and something might well be gained. If anyone wishes I will have enquiries made on their behalf if they will write to me.