



Seniors grill candidates

STURT | ADAM TODD

SENIORS had a rare chance to have their voices heard during this Federal Election campaign at a Sturt candidate forum last Friday, August 6.

About 50 seniors quizzed candidates on topics ranging from pensions and aged care, to climate change and suicide prevention. The National Seniors Australia event, held at UniSA's Magill campus, included incumbent Liberal **Christopher Pyne**, Labor's **Rick Sarre**, the Greens' **Peter Fiebig** and Family First's **Dale Clegg**.

Mr Pyne said the Coalition had a seven-point plan to tackle seniors' issues.

He said the plan included indexing the threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, establishing a National Seniors Safety Program, and a \$3500 incentive payment for employers who hire seniors.

Mr Sarre pointed to Labor's record over the past three years in government as evidence of its commitment to seniors.

This included the introduction of a pensioner living cost index and increasing the pension by \$100 per fortnight for singles and \$70 for couples.

The event was part of a series of forums in 13 marginal seats across the country.

National Seniors Australia last week released its four-point Federal Election policy platform, covering improving health and aged care, keeping seniors in the workforce, guaranteeing financial security and overcoming age discrimination.

Sturt is the second oldest electorate in the state, behind Hindmarsh, and is held by Mr Pyne by just 0.94 per cent.