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Dublin Pensioners big winners in Budget 2008 – Kennedy

42,000 pensioner couples nationally set to benefit by up to €41 per week from the “Qualified Adult” rule

Dublin North Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Kennedy, says the generous pension increases announced in today’s Budget are testament to a government that has social inclusion at its heart.

Speaking today, Deputy Kennedy said: “In recent years, there has been significant social welfare increases for our pensioners. The Government will further build on these achievements by increasing the full personal rate of the State (Contributory) Pension by €14 per week and that of the State (Non-Contributory) Pension by €12 per week.”

“This will bring the State (Contributory) Pension to **€223.30** per week and the State (Non-Contributory) Pension to **€212** per week.”

“I am also delighted that qualified adults of pension age, mainly women whose lives were committed to home-making, are being recognised. Qualified adults are women and men who haven’t worked during a marriage, but on whose account the recipient of a social welfare entitlement is allocated a special increase in their payment.”

“Many may not have a record of social insurance contribution and so we are now raising the rate for the qualified adult allowance for those of pension age up €27 to €200 per week.”

“All other personal weekly social welfare rates will be increased by €12 per week. This will bring the lowest full adult social welfare rate to €197.80 per week.”

“The package of measures underlines the Government’s commitment to honour the debt we all owe to a generation whose hard work laid the foundation for the economic success we enjoy today.”

“We must continue to listen to their views and address their needs. Their contribution to our communities cannot be measured and must continue to be recognised”, said Deputy Kennedy.