

What do we need from our state pension in the future?

Quick Guide to Government proposals on State Pension

This is a once in a generation opportunity to influence pension policy. Let your voice be heard

#pensionequality



National Women's
Council of Ireland
Comhairle Náisiúnta
na mBan in Éirinn

August 2018

www.nwci.ie
www.twitter.com/nwci
www.facebook.com/NationalWomensCouncilofIreland

The Government is making proposals to change how the contributory state pension is calculated. Government plans propose that the current system of yearly averaging be replaced with a Total Contributions Approach from 2020. We believe a Universal state pension is the best guarantee for equality for women in older age.

Key action to take: 1. Carry out a gender impact assessment of the proposals

Government Proposals

NWCI Response

Consultation process

- Allow standalone submissions
- Deliver on promised roadshow to engage more people

40 qualifying years required for a full pension

- 30 years was originally proposed in National Pensions Framework
- Impact for women needs to be measured and published

New approach starts from Jan 2020

- Flexibility will be required for women who have not been able to build up sufficient contributions

10 Year Cap on ordinary credits

- Concern that where ordinary credits are used they would reduce the maximum number of homecaring credits you can use

20 year Homecaring credit

- Recognition of longer periods of time spent providing care
- Recognise credit as a re-entry credit for access to training, educational and employment supports

Retaining minimum 10 years paid contributions

- Long term carers may never be in a position to build up a minimum of 10 years
- Explore individualisation in the means testing for the non-contributory state pension
- Remove paid contribution condition for credits similar to the UK

Pension age will increase to 67 in 2021 and to 68 in 2028

- Need a gender and poverty analysis of the increases in age of eligibility
- Impact of women in low pay being unable to retire earlier
- Women (and men) with health conditions and/or who are in physically demanding employment sectors need mitigating and transitional arrangements.

NWCI will be making a full submission and this will be available on our website. www.nwci.ie