

Pensioners and self funded retirees forgotten in stimulus package

Council on the Ageing NSW is concerned that the Federal Government's stimulus package announced has made no mention pensioners and self funded retirees.

"It is disappointing that the stimulus package has failed to consider self funded retirees and pensioners, who are amongst the battlers in the current climate" said Kath Brewster President of COTA NSW.

Today Pensioners and self funded retirees will be feeling anxious about the relief they were hoping to receive as a consequence of the Harmer Pension Review and Henry Tax Review. "We have been receiving calls from seniors worried that this current expenditure may produce more conservative relief packages for pensioners and self funded retirees when the budget is announced in May. As pensioners and self funded retirees are generally not in the workforce they will not benefit from the package announced today." Ms Brewster said.

COTA NSW is concerned that the stimulus package is reactive and will only provide short term relief, and calls on the government to be more considered and level headed about any further packages to stimulate the economy.

"We don't wish to detract from those benefiting from the package; however we would

like some assurances from the Rudd Government that pensioners have not been forgotten and are likely to receive a decent increase in the age pension in the near future."

Equally, self funded retirees are also in need of assistance and tax relief in this climate. "They are faced with a reduced income stream because of falling interest rates and are yet to receive some financial relief from the government," Ms Brewster said.

Council on the Ageing NSW

Established in 1956, COTA (NSW) is a peak body providing leadership in social policy and community information and education for people over 50 years of age in New South Wales and Australia.

COTA (NSW) has 51 years of proud history of initiating programs and services that make a difference to people: Meals On Wheels, Carers NSW, Retirement Villages Association and Residents Association, Seniors Clubs, Seniors Information Service, OM:NI (Older Men: New Ideas), support for Grandparents who are carers and for those who are separated from their grandchildren and Medication Management for Older People.



Angelopoulos's new film "Dust of Time"

The new film of Greek director Theo Angelopoulos "Dust of Time" will have its Athenian premiere on February 11 at the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron) in the presence of President of the Republic Karolos Papoulias.

Angelopoulos's new film with an international cast including Willem Dafoe, Irene Jacob and Bruno Ganz, is being considered by critics as his "most poetical and personal film".

Young woman died after four cans of Red Bull



A young woman died on the dance floor of a nightclub in front of her friends after consuming up to a litre of Red Bull, an inquest has been told.

Chloe Leach, 21, suffered from a heart condition that could have been aggravated by the high amounts of caffeine in the potent energy drink, British newspaper The Telegraph has reported.

The third-year social work student had also consumed several vodka-based drinks also containing caffeine before she collapsed in front of horrified friends at the Sugarmill club in Hull, England, on September 30 last year.

Despite the best efforts of staff and paramedics, Miss Leach died at the scene.

The inquest heard that Miss Leach, who had been diagnosed with epilepsy in 2001, also may have suffered from QT Syndrome — which affects the heart's electric

activity.

Dr Ian Scott told the inquest that early speculation her drink had been spiked was not correct.

"On the basis of probability, her epilepsy, the QT, her abnormal heart and the high levels of caffeine found, the most likely cause of death was a cardiac arrhythmia due to underlying QT Syndrome," Dr Scott, a neuropathologist, said.

"I excluded drugs as a cause — the only drugs she had taken were her epilepsy medication."

Pathologist Dr Stephen Morley said Miss Leach may have had as little as two cans of Red Bull or as many as six.

He said standard cups of coffee contain around 40mg of caffeine, while a can of Red Bull contains 80mg.

Coroner Geoffrey Saul ruled that Miss Leach died of natural causes, saying her ingestion of caffeine from the Red Bull may have contributed to her death.

Family Harmony Awareness & Law in Everyday Living

This information session will provide women, in particular, women from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds, with available support services that are offered in the community, such as, Legal Aid, Court Support, DOCs, Housing, etc.



DATE: 20 February 2009 (Friday)
TIME: 3-4pm - VENUE: Level 1, ECHO Neighbourhood Centre, 27 Spring Street, Bondi Junction
COST: FREE

.Experienced facilitator from Immigrant Women's Speakout.
.Refreshments available.
.Free event but booking essential. For booking, please contact Tammy on 9387-2885 or 0401-284-184 or email to sgp@echocentre.com.au.
ECHO Neighbourhood Centre