

# ALONE calls on Government to focus attention on people in need and stop ‘kite flying tactics’

*Call comes following announcement of possible cut in state pension*

**Dublin, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2013:** ALONE, the charity working with older people in need of support, has called on the Government to stop ‘kite flying tactics’ regarding the State pension. Although the reports that the pension could be cut by €10 per week in October’s Budget have been effectively dismissed, ALONE is urging the Government to focus their attention on the needs of vulnerable people in the community.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE, commented today, “The Government needs to focus their attention on people who are in need – we are disappointed to see them using scare tactics in the media in relation to the State pension. Older people on basic income of state pension have been hit financially in the last year in terms of cuts in vital services and increases in costs. Older people on the margins of society, the people with whom ALONE work, have been disproportionately affected by austerity and are particularly vulnerable to poverty and isolation. With rumors such as further cuts to the pension being discussed, it raises many concerns for older people in the community and can be a cause of great distress.”

He continued, “Over 80% of older people are reliant on the state pension and are living on very little income. Many of the people we work with find it impossible to make ends meet. Any increase in costs, taxes, or cuts in services have a disproportionate effect on these people. The Government has frequently committed to protecting those in need and making Ireland a great place to grow old and we’re again calling on them to live up to these commitments.”

ALONE service users come from among the one in ten older people who are at risk of poverty. The charity provides assistance to older people in need of support through a volunteer befriending service, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes with lifetime tenancies in a supportive environment for older people at risk of homelessness.

Older people in need of assistance or who have concerns can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032. [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie).