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SHORTENED VERSION – PENSION CREDIT **CARE OF THE ELDERLY** **PENSION CREDIT – ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

On 6th October 2003 a new tax-free weekly entitlement was introduced by the Government. This entitlement is called **Pension Credit** and as a result over 1.2 million households in the UK are receiving more money.

Pension Credit is an entitlement for people aged **60 and over**. There are **two parts** to Pension Credit – the **Guarantee Credit** and the **Savings Credit**. Each part of the Pension Credit is worked out separately and even though you may not be eligible to receive Guarantee Credit you may still be eligible to receive Savings Credit. Some people will get both Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit, others could get either one. Which you get and the amount paid to you depends on your personal circumstances.

Capital and Savings of £6,000 or less (£10,000 if you live in a care home) are ignored. Although there is no capital limit to Pension Credit any savings above these figures will affect the amount of Pension Credit you may receive.

The Guarantee Credit can top up your weekly income to a minimum level set by Parliament (**currently £119.05 for single people or £181.70 for couples**). Extra amounts will be allowed if you have a severe disability, if you are a carer, or for certain housing costs such as a mortgage.

The Savings Credit is an extra reward you may receive if you are aged **65 or over** and have made modest provision for retirement (such as savings or non-state second pension) and your income is less than the level set by Parliament (**currently £167.00 for single people or £245 for couples**). The maximum amount of Savings Credit is **£167.00 for single people or £23.58 for couples**. This is a means tested).

If you need advice or think you may be eligible you can ring the Pension Credit Application Line on **Freephone 0800 99 1234**. An adviser will help you fill in an application form over the telephone. Why not give them a call, you may be eligible to receive this additional financial help.

For internet users you can find out more information at www.pensions.gov.uk/pensioncredit.