



## KCGM MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011

### Worth His Weight in Gold

*The Goldfields has many champions, and this one is worth his weight in gold.*

Goldfields native Jack Tinetti has been helping pensioners in the Goldfields for decades. Each year he works tirelessly to collect donations to allow the Goldfields Aged Pensioners Welfare Association to distribute annual winter heating (June) and council rate (October) relief to Kalgoorlie's pensioners.

When KCGM staff were awarded a bonus for reaching 1 million hours without sustaining a lost time injury (which means someone not being able to perform their normal job due to injury), they voted to donate it to the Goldfields Aged Pensioners Welfare Association. Combined with sponsorship from KCGM's Community Reference Group, the Association will receive a \$15,000 contribution to its subsidy funding.

Mr Tinetti is a staunch advocate for pensioners in Goldfields, and has been since 1954, when he and a group of like-minded people opened a rest centre for pensioners walking to Kalgoorlie to collect their pension cheques.

The organisation grew, eventually providing accommodation for nearly forty people, and an annual holiday to Esperance, as well as much needed subsidies to help meet the cost of council rates and heating bills.

This year, the Pensioners Association will once again set up their station each Thursday in June to provide the much needed heating subsidy. This year Mr Tinetti is expecting to hand out around \$46,000 to Goldfields pensioners and he is already fundraising for next year. Although, at ninety-one, he's says he's not sure he'll be around next year.

Jack Tinetti says *"We used to have about 200 people turning up to collect the subsidy, but the numbers keep growing. We had 652 last year, and we're expecting at least that many people again this year. KCGM's donation is a great help to us, it will allow us to meet the increasing demand for help."*

KCGM General Manager Russell Cole said, *"We are very happy to have been able to help Goldfields pensioners in this way and to support the fantastic work the Goldfields Aged Pensioners Welfare Association are doing. We hope that this donation will give them the resources they need to allow them to continue serving the community so well."*

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