

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER: 823 [NW970E]  
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**823. Dr P W A Mulder (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Finance:†**

Whether the means test for persons who qualify for an old-age pension will be phased out by 2016, as was announced by the previous Minister of Finance on 26 February 2013; if not, from what date will the means test no longer be applicable; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW970E

**REPLY:**

There is no set date for the removal of the means test for the Old Age Grant. It was announced during the 2014 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement that the “removal of the means test for access to the Older Person’s Grant has been deferred and will form part of the comprehensive social security reform process”. In the 2015 Budget speech, it was further announced that Government would this year publish the much awaited discussion paper on comprehensive social security reforms. Removal of the means test has to be considered in this context rather than a standalone reform. Fiscal constraints also pose a key challenge and the total expenditure ceiling of government has been revised downwards in the budget 2015/16, therefore limiting the ability of government to fund this reform at the present time. A change was made to the means test in 2014/15 as a step to increasing access among the elderly.