

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Workforce participation
Date: Friday, 19 August 2022 6:19:46 PM

Good evening,

I see from your website this morning that submissions are still being accepted so hope it's not too late to make a submission to your enquiry into workforce participation by Seniors.

I am 72 years old and live with my wife in

We retired from our small business 7 years ago and until the beginning of this year were living on our superannuation and part pension.

Early in the year I saw a notice at our local Handyman Centre seeking truck drivers.

I've had a truck licence since the early 70s so had a trial and since Easter have been working casually for them 2 or 3 days a week.

One objective we have with this additional income is to renovate our ensuite and to renovate some of our flooring.

I doing this I have been earning about \$300 a day, so about \$1,100 a fortnight.

So in 1 day I can earn about what the Work Bonus gives back in a fortnight.

This week I submitted by fortnightly income report to Centrelink as required and found that my Work Bonus balance had reduced to \$2,799.

So far as I can ascertain this means that I can work for about another 2 months before the balance is eliminated and my part pension will start to reduce by \$.50c for every dollar I earn.

When that happens what am I expected to do?

I would like to remain a useful member of society for as long as I can but unless something is done to keep me in the workforce I will instead go back to the various volunteering roles I've performed; driving for Meals on Wheels, Tennis Queensland events, volunteering at my local golf club etc.

I would instead prefer to enable me to remain a useful and productive member of the workforce and in my submission that there at least 3 options available.

In descending order of priority (to me) they are:

- Abandon the Work Bonus system in its entirety and transfer the responsibility to the Taxation Office.
 - In my submission taxation could be levied at normal marginal rates with taxation rebates provided when the annual assessment is made.
 - I would have thought that most Seniors during their working life would have dealt with the Taxation Office and yet on retirement we now have not 1 but 2 Federal agencies to deal with, the Taxation Office and Centrelink; and this at a time when our cognitive and memory facilities are supposed to be on the decline.
 - With the Taxation Office the contact (unless GST is involved) is generally annually; and in my recent experience increasingly helpful with automatic loading of most income, generation of an assessment and refund of overpaid tax.
 - Centrelink on the other hand for some reason need to know not only what our original asset and income position was on retirement but also

requires me to remember to provide:

- A fortnightly report of gross wages earned and hours worked (and woe betide me if I'm late in my submission as I discovered this week, as our pension will now be delayed),
 - An update to our bank balance if it's more than \$2,000 greater than previously reported.
 - An update to other assets if they're more than \$1,000 greater than previously reported
- Allow one spouse to use the Work Bonus of the other spouse.
 - My wife does voluntary work but does not use her Work Bonus and yet 50% of the increase in our joint bank account is assessed as part of her assets.
 - Increase the re-credit from \$300 per fortnight to (say) \$1,000 per fortnight (indexed annually to the nearest \$100).
 - If I can earn the fortnightly rebate in 1 days work the question in my mind is when the credit was last increased.

Thank you for your attention.