

Austen Evans,

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Dear Committee

Please excuse the lateness of this submission, however I was only made aware of your enquiry today (17th May 2011).

I am currently employed by Qantas Airlines.

I commenced an apprenticeship with Trans Australian Airlines on 1st February 1977, which as you would be aware became Australian Airlines, before being bought by Qantas in 1992.

At the time I was employed I was living in Adelaide.

T.A.A had two apprentice training facilities, one in Melbourne and one in Brisbane.

Apprentices from South Australia and New South Wales were required to move to Melbourne for three years for their training, apprentices recruited in Queensland did their training in Brisbane.

During the course of our training in Melbourne we were frequently told by the tradesmen and supervisors that we were working with that we should join the superannuation scheme, which was of course the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme.

Despite many individual and collective approaches we were never permitted to join the scheme.

It was several years later that we found out that the Brisbane-based apprentices who joined at the same time as South Australian, New South Wales and Victorian apprentices had been permitted to join the scheme.

There were also people in Brisbane who started with T.A.A in subsequent years who were permitted to join the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme.

As it was a number of years before I was able to join the (the Australian Airlines) A.M.P superannuation fund, my final retirement income will be materially disadvantaged compared to the T.A.A staff who started in the same job, on the same day, but in Brisbane, in two ways, firstly by the less-generous A.M.P scheme compared to the Commonwealth Scheme and secondly by the fewer number of years of membership of any superannuation fund.

I have put in a claim with the Department of Finance and have over the last couple of years received a few letters from them seeking further information or advising that my claim is in their system.

Thanking you,

Austen Evans.