

SUBMISSION TO SENATE ENQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION
CLAIMS OF FORMER AND CURRENT COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC
SERVICE EMPLOYEES

[REDACTED]

I joined the ABC (then Australian Broadcasting Commission) in February 1966 as a cadet journalist.

My father was in the police superannuation scheme and recommended that I join Commonwealth superannuation as a compulsory savings measure.

As part of my induction process I asked the Head of Personnel, [REDACTED] if I could join, but was told (as I remember, rather dismissively) that because I was a journalist and as such, a "temporary" employee, I was not entitled to superannuation. She said super was available only to permanent employees (that is, everyone BUT journalists).

Eighteen years later I became aware that new journalists joining the ABC were being offered superannuation.

I approached Personnel again and was told I was free to join and so in 1984 I signed on to the Commonwealth super scheme.

Although I left the ABC in 1988 I remain a member of the Commonwealth Scheme.

I always believed the ABC discriminated against journalists in deciding who was entitled to superannuation.

And there were inequities.

A staff member named [REDACTED] joined the ABC (around 1964) as a permanent employee in the "despatch" department and of course was accepted into superannuation . After 12 months he transferred to news but retained his membership of super.

I firmly believe that I was denied a significant retirement benefit by being refused membership of the Commonwealth superannuation scheme when I joined the ABC in 1966. I can only roughly calculate the accumulated sum that I would have now if that benefit had been available for those 18 years - something approaching 4- hundred thousand dollars.

I didn't join any super scheme until I was belatedly accepted into the Commonwealth.

My employment history with the ABC

Joined February 1966 as a cadet journalist

1969 - promoted to graded journalist

1977 - promoted to senior journalist

1984 - promoted to chief of staff

September 1988 - resigned [REDACTED]

My News Editor at the time of joining was [REDACTED]

The News Editor when I left was [REDACTED]

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.
I have been in regular contact with Senator Nick Xenophon over
this issue.

[REDACTED]