

THIRROUL RETIRED
MINeworkERS ASSOC.,
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The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

The Thirroul Retired Mineworkers' Association resolved at their last meeting to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into cost of living pressures on older Australians.

Our members are all on fixed incomes. Many of us are on the age pension and rely on the government for the maintenance of our standard of living.

Members of the Association are concerned that the cost of living for people on fixed incomes is rising all the time. While people who are working are able to work extra hours or change jobs to meet increased costs, those of us on a fixed income cannot.

Members have noted that dental care costs have increased – with one member waiting five years for an assessment – and then having to pay all the costs associated with the treatment. We often also face increased costs for medical treatments – with an MRI scan costing between \$98 and \$360 up front.

Due to the shortage of doctors our members are forced to travel for medical appointments. With petrol costs increasing all the time this can be expensive. Public transport costs are always on the increase as well – meaning we have to tightly budget our travel.

In addition many of our members must maintain a family home as they are not in public housing or renting. This is increasingly expensive as basic utility costs like gas, electricity and telephone keep increasing.

In short, we would like to the Committee to understand that those of us older Australians on pensions and fixed incomes are always facing increased costs and that the health of the economy has little impact on our standard of living.

Yours sincerely,

Don Jones
President