

Thursday, 5 July 2007

Dear Secretary,

I understand that The Australian Senate Community Affairs Committee is holding an Inquiry into the costs of living pressures on older Australians.

With this in mind I want to submit the following suggestion concerning negative gearing and homes for elderly and disabled persons.

As the legislation currently stands, anybody can purchase a home or unit in which their elderly relation may live, paying the reasonable rent as assessed by a local estate agent. In this case, the purchaser is entitled to receive negative gearing assistance in matter of interest rate payments, re-decorating, renovation as required, replacement of faulty appliances in the property purchased and all other concerns relevant to negative gearing.

HOWEVER, there is discrimination if this family member chooses to buy into a retirement village or specifically designed disabled unit for the elderly or infirm family member.

I would like the committee to consider including such purchases in the negative gear proposals. To do this would increase the choice of home for the elderly or infirmed relative.

I am happy to discuss this with you at any level. Currently I serve as a Community representative at Willoughby Council on the Access for All committee, as well as being voluntary Patron of the newly proposed Arts complex- so I am involved in two levels at local Council.

Please consider this simple proposal within the scope of your consideration of cost of living pressures on older Australians. Without my son's help, housing would have been unaffordable had I not found an affordable Christian village where I can rent with security of tenure.