

Ray Walters

August 7, 2007

**The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Subject Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been asked to contact you and our local Member about the subject matter. We wish to point out where we believe there are anomalies in the present superannuation system for superannuates from the Commonwealth Superannuation System and the personnel who are given a Veteran Affairs Disability pension at the General Rate. As you all know the ordinary old age pension increases are based on CPI or average weekly earnings from the populace. Unfortunately both the CSS ComSuper pension and the General Rate for a DVA disability pension are based solely on a CPI increase. We believe that there have been two Senate committees that have recommended a change to the CSS. Given that the CSS superannuation and the General Rate of Veterans disability pension are both based on the CPI increase every time the increase turns out to be given on the basis of the weekly average earnings people on the CSS pension and General Rate of Disability Pension are falling behind the old age pension. Eventually the superannuates and the veteran disabled will be falling so far behind that they will be overtaken by the old age pension. Surely these people who have served their Country in times of war or peacekeeping and Public Servants who have served their Country exactly the same as Parliamentarians deserve better than this. We request that you take into consideration these facts during your inquiry, Eventually everyone who is a superannuate of the CSS scheme will be brought back to the situation where it is better to get an old age pension for the benefits that are additional to the old age pension but not for the CSS pension. Veterans on the General Rate payment are in exactly the same problem as the CSS pensioners. The rate for a TPI and EDA pension is based on the same criterion as the old age pension but the General rate is based purely on the CPI meaning the General Rate pension is falling behind the TPI and EDA rate every six months, this is not fair. Please take into consideration during your deliberations these facts and bring about a method to right a wrong and bring these two pension systems to each increase percentage wise to the same increase as the old age pension.

Sincerely,

Ray Walters
Retired