

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

13 July, 2007

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO COST OF LIVING PRESSURES  
ON OLDER AUSTRALIANS

Dear Committee

I write on behalf of my husband (aged 79) and myself (aged 70) who are both in receipt of full pensions from CentreLink.

I wish to advise that the greatest cost pressures for us are:

- (1) the cost of electricity in meeting our household needs. I have been affected by quadriplegia since birth and, in recent months my husband has had major surgery and is seriously ill. This means both of us need to keep warm in winter and cool in summer. The costs of heating and cooling are considerable.
- (2) The cost of adequate dental care. At this time, in particular, when my husband has special nutritional needs, his 10 year old ill-fitting dentures are in urgent need of replacement.

I am aware that in some countries special provision is made for the costs of additional heating for older citizens during the winter months. Such a provision would be of great assistance to many senior citizens in Australia.

As a couple we find we are able to budget adequately for food and petrol.

Thankyou for your interest in our cost of living pressures