

16.7.07

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Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
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Thank you for giving me
the privilege of making my voice heard.

I am living and worked in Australia since 1951
Unfortunately when my late husband and I retired
there was no superannuation in place. I now have
to live on \$12 000 a year income.

My first question to the panel
is: Has any of you ever had to live on that
amount? My answer is: Never! So how can you
understand our plight?

- a i) Food prices affected by drought - flood - export -
petrol prices
MEAT - FRUIT - VEGETABLES - BREAD - MILK - EGGS
and so on had an increase of 35% in the last
five years
OUR PENSION - NO INCREASE of that ~~percentage~~.
Food prices also affected by big chains monopolies

Food prices of Vegetables and Fruit are kept high even when in season. Petrol again rises the price of food.

a ii

Ever since essential services, water, electricity, gas and communication have been privatised the cost has gone up and up purely to give profit to often overseas companies, not globalisation but robbery.

Yes pensioners and self retirees get a Government allowance but the G.S.T. on the bill is much much higher than the allowance. So no help for a Pensioner.

a iii

Dental care: It is impossible to go to the commonwealth funded dentist: you register! You get told you are now on the waiting list and will get a letter in 2-3 years time to be seen by a dentist! Should you have a toothache or infection, bad luck, you have to wait!!! This is the reality!

Bring back the Dental care scheme we had under Labour! In fact bring back the old HEALTHSCHEME we had under Labour. It worked perfect. We do not need the American way. It is the worst Healthscheme in the world!!

We do not need so many health funds (PRIVATE) they only increase the cost of Health cost as they all want to make a profit.

The person who lives at home is less of a burden to the medical system. Stay home be healthy, less medicine

b) The cost of repairs to your home is now unaffordable because of the rise in goods and services and material cost. Pensioners want to be part of the social community but it is now very difficult to travel to see relatives, friends, social functions, doctors, Dentist, Opticians, Hospitals e.g. Of course our input into the voluntary work we perform becomes affected. This voluntary workforce is never acknowledged. State cost has risen - Commonwealth do not take into account. Here the blame factor of this Government comes into full force.

Bd) Inflation Index: what does it relate to? It is not relevant to the cost of living at all. Who says we have no inflation! Inflation is rampant in prices of Food Goods and Services Rates, taxes e.g. house prices and this is because cost of living is high. Treasury insist we have no inflation because of low interest. Wrong wrong wrong! Link pension for Pensioners, not Selfretirees who own more than \$60,000, to the C.P.I

c) What assistance by which Government Department to Pensioners - none - Selfretirees - yes. Pensioners have a right to live to. We have contributed to this great country of ours just as much or maybe more.