



14th July, 2007

Senate Community Affairs Committee

I find that the cost of living continues to escalate, and in some cases, much more for a single person than a couple.

If a household is owned, some of the costs which are borne for one person as for two, or sometimes more, are much more.

For example, 1 person pays the same as 2 people for the following:

Brisbane City Council Rates

Electricity/gas - couples use the same lounge room, television, stove etc. (hot water for showers slightly more)

Cost of a car - Registration, Insurance, maintenance etc.

Replacement of appliances, water tank, - when this does occur, it is paid from 1 pension

Body Corporate Fees - I pay the same amount as a couple next door.

Carpet cleaning - occasionally, but when it does happen, the cost comes from a single pension.

Gifts for children, grandchildren. - Birthdays and Christmas. same as for a couple

Telephone. Couples generally share the same family and friends - same cost for 2 people.

In addition to the above, single people pay more than half to different organisations e.g. \$50 subscription for 2 people, or 1 person.

If a single person wants to have a short break, they ordered with a "single supplement".

At my local greengrocer, good quality vegetables packed in lots cost about \$2 each.

I cannot cope with this quantity before it deteriorates, but all hand-picked purchased can cost as much as \$4.99 K.

In the past, when my husband was still alive, he could do some small repairs, mow the lawn etc.

Now, at 72 years of age, I never learnt to do these things, many men, still in a "couple" situation, are able to save by taking care of small chores themselves.

In view of the above, and the costs involved, I, (and widows with whom I associate), believe that as we get 60% of the amount paid to couples, life is a sad one and believe a single pension should be raised to a degree to cope with outgoings, many of which are the same as for 2.

I have paid into a Health Fund for the past 50 years and become a member. The premium of almost \$100 a month, hospital, dental, optical costs etc. I find this is a large sum. In spite of the fact that the Federal Government pays a subsidy, I pay now about the same as I paid several years ago.

I believe concessions given to travel on public transport great help, also concessions re Council Rates.

I was pleased to receive a bonus of \$500 recently as a
t from the Federal Budget. (Couples received \$500 each!)

Young people have been helped in recent years with the
Home Owners Grant, and also large bonuses when children

Older Australians are not helped to such a great
to deal with day to day costs.

I trust the above information is helpful to you.