

19th July 2007

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2699
Email community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

We are writing to you today in regarding to our financial concerns as Pensioners living in country NSW. In recent times the cost of living as increased by a greater degree than our pension payments have increased,

1. **PBS** pricing
2. Food,
3. House and Contents Insurance,
4. Motor Vehicle Insurance
5. CTP
6. Motor Vehicle Fuel,
7. Electricity --- the pension rebate here is a joke it doesn't even cover the GST amount e.g. *Charges \$351.57 Concession \$29.15 GST \$32.24*
8. Council Rates and Charges are increasing and the concession amount is **decreasing.**

YEAR	RATES AMOUNT	CONCESSION AMOUNT	VGLV
2002	593.24	505.00	39,200
2003	611.78	505.00	39,200
2004	817.54	505.00	62,000
2005	844.36	425.00	62,000
2006	875.92	425.00	62,000
2007	906.99	425.00	62,000

Just recently Barbara on Age Pension received a bonus payment of \$500.00 and Thomas on Disability Support Pension did not receive any bonus payment even though until health issues prevented Thomas from working from February 2001 Thomas had worked and contributed Income tax payments continually since he left school in 1958 at the age of 15 years.

We trust Secretary, that something can be done to assure us older Australians who have worked hard all our lives and were not given the advantage of today's superannuation guarantees the financial support we deserve to maintain a reasonably dignified lifestyle.

Yours faithfully
Thomas J Sharp
Barbara M sharp