

AUSTRALIANS – SENATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBMISSION

Dear Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Cost of Living Pressure for Older Australians

DFRDB: In July there was no increase for DFRDB (Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits) recipients, even though other pensioners got an increase. Apparently this is because DFRDB is assessed on a different basket of goods (CPI?) than Pensioners or Retired Politicians Pensions. How this could be justified I don't know, prices have risen dramatically in housing, rents and food, it doesn't make sense.

When are the government going to change the method of increases for DFRDB recipients to bring them into line with Pensioners etc, the way it is at the moment stinks.

CENTRELINK DISABILITY PENSION: At the current time, Centrelink Disability Pensions are Tax Exempt for those on this pension until they reach the age of 65, then the income from a Disability Pension is no longer Tax Exempt and become Taxable Income.

I cannot fathom this, as when a person reaches 65 their health has started to break down and they have more age and financial related problems than before they reached that age? It just doesn't seem to make sense that when they are younger and although with a disability more able to look after themselves than when they are aged and their needs are greater.

Would appreciate it if these items could be considered in this enquiry please,