

17-7-07

Elton Humphery.
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Dept. of the Senate;



Mr E Humphery
Dear Sir,

I wish to make a number of submissions to the Senate inquiry, regarding the cost of living for older Australians.

- 1) Super for "BLUE" collar workers is a reasonably recent happening, the pension was the "NORM" the accepted thing when one retired or had to retire due to ill health.

Having received NEWS FOR SENIORS today c/ling indicate that the total amount for married couple is \$882-20/FW a couple can exist on this amount, or cannot live with dignity. When power charges, sewerage - water & Annual rates are taken into account it leaves precious little to live on. By the time the fortnightly groceries & petrol are bought my wife & I wonder if the expense of two flat whites & a toasted sandwich (SHARED) total cost \$14-50 is "lashing out" buggar the expense, we'll live dangerously. I kid you not, we own our house, but know others both couples & singles that aren't as well-

- off as us, & would no more think of having a real coffee than an overseas holiday.

Sir, what I trying to say is lift the pensioners above the POVERTY LINE & give them some dignity, even if the aged were to get \$100-00 P/F increase, (we won't) the Govt is going to recoup \$75-00 in taxes, fuel tax & G.S.T. etc. I've met aged pensioners from Germany, (5) in one family on a two mth holiday in Aust. touring by car, their sole support is the pension in Germany. I cannot see me touring the Rhine valley on my pension.

Per population we must be one of the richest countries on the planet, we give millions to countries every year but mention the aged, & a blank registers on a poll's face we don't really exist! The Govt. has pledged the single male pension will be 25% of the average weekly wage ie. \$265-00 of \$1060-00 which is disgusting. If pensioners were able to find work - P/T. & we earned a whole \$110-00 per week as a couple c/link starts to remove our pension at \$0.40 in the dollar over that amount the aged are between a rock & a hard place.

Well sir, I've rambled on, & apologized for doing so, but I hope the committee will take note of how pensioners really think not only me but many I know

As you will see by this letter, I've
never submitted anything to a committee
before, so if you've taken the time to
actually read this I thank you.

I Remain,

Yours Faithfully

James. W. Haylot.