

**A SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS INQUIRING INTO THE COST OF  
LIVING PRESSURES ON OLDER AUSTRALIANS BOTH PENSIONERS  
AND SELF FUNDED RETIREES.**

from

Ms. Aileen Monck, AO.

With reference to Term of Reference (d) of the Inquiry, viz:

The adequacy of current tax, superannuation, pension  
and concession arrangements for older Australians  
to meet these costs.

it is respectfully requested that the maximum gross annual income, which entitles a single self funded retiree to a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, be reviewed.

The amount currently stands at \$50,000.00 per single self funded retiree per annum, and has not increased since it was first implemented. This is an injustice when compared to the aged pension which is indexed twice annually to the average weekly earnings of the workforce.

Many self funded retirees have had small increases in their gross income in recent years, because of upward movements in the share market which affects share dividends, allocated pensions etc. At the same time the cost of living has increased, as has the cost of pharmaceutical prescription items. Failing health as a person ages often requires the expenditure of quite large sums of money on prescriptions, and other pharmaceutical items.

When this increased expenditure is taken into account it has the effect of reducing the net annual income of self funded retirees, but, because the gross income exceeds \$50,000.00 annually, they either lose their entitlement or are unable to apply for the fore-mentioned card.

It would be greatly appreciated if the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs would review the inadequacy of the current single self funded retiree maximum cut off point for receipt of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.



Aileen Monck, AO.



17 July 2007