

# Newcastle Combined Pensioners Area Council.

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19 JULY 2007

THE SECRETARY  
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## INQUIRY INTO COST OF LIVING PRESSURES ON OLDER AUSTRALIANS

PENSIONERS ARE SEVERELY AFFECTED WITH THE RAPID INCREASE IN PRICES OF FOODS AND GENERAL HOUSEHOLD UTILITIES.

DUE TO THE PRICE OF DENTISTRY PENSIONERS ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE TEETH ATTENDED TO BECAUSE IN SOME CASES THERE IS A WAITING LIST OF 20 YEARS PENSIONERS ARE EXPERIENCING OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE LACK OF ATTENTION TO THEIR TEETH.

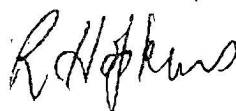
FOR THOSE PEOPLE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE A CAR, SOME WEEKS THEY CANNOT RUN THEM BECAUSE OF THE HIGH PRICE OF PETROL.

INCREASES IN PRICE OF MEDICATIONS AND CONSTANT REMOVAL OF MEDICINES FROM P B S ARE CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR PAYMENT OF THESE BY PENSIONERS.

PENSIONERS ARE STILL BEING PAID ONLY 25% OF MINIMUM WAGE WHICH MEANS THEY ARE UNABLE TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE. WE NEED AT LEAST 35 per cent of the average male weekly earnings (AMWE).

AUSTRALIA IS SEEN AS A WEALTHY COUNTRY BUT PENSIONERS KNOW THAT WE HAVE A HIGH POVERTY RATE.

GREETINGS



BOB Hopkins PRESIDENT

