

5th July 2007

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Sir/Madam,

At last someone has listened, so now we are allowed to express our views.

Nothing will change in regard to pensioner's living standards until we are granted an annual review of pensions run by a remuneration board similar to the one organizing parliamentary salary rises.

This would take us away from the whims of TREASURERS both federal and state both of whom class pensioners as a drain on the economy and when a rise in pensions is made it is always after we have suffered months of deprivation.

We do not expect to get a GOLD travel pass or free telephones and postage or a car to travel about in but it would be refreshing to be able financially to pay for a train or plane ticket from ones own bank account.

For most older pensioners tax is not a problem for they do not have sufficient funds to warrant tax payments.

It would be a good idea to issue pensioners a ABN number which would allow them to access cheap motor cars thus preventing us from driving around in old worn out vehicles costing a fortune we don't have to maintain.

It would be of interest to learn that parliamentarians go shopping to WOOLWORTHS or the like for normal household groceries and for them to see the weekly price hike and if that was coupled with them filling their car with petrol I am sure they would wonder how pensioners exist especially those that live in rural areas away from public transport.

It is reported that rail fare concessions and car rego exemption schemes and utilities rebates are things that will have to go or be reduced as stated by NSW treasurer Michael