

Note. I sent the enclosed letter
in in June last year. The
reply letter I got from Mal Braugh's
secretary was so insulting, no doubt
written by some arrogant secretary
who wouldn't have any idea of the real
world. I showed it to my friends, who
also were disgusted.

Mr Warren Truss, our Federal Member
has been wonderful. I enclose his
reply to me + although the closing
date for submissions was 20 July.
+ this is late due to the fact I was
away + my mail did not get collected until
yesterday. I want you to read this copy
of letter sent to you a year ago
The situation Pension wise + the
increased costs in the past year is
just terrible, please consider
the Single pensioner & give
a better deal.



Lesoman Taylor.
23. July 07

Mr John Howard.

Mr Peter Costello.

Canberra.

1. 6. 06.

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the one off amount of \$102 this Financial Year.

People in the same situation as me wonder if you really do have any idea, how the over 65's Single, house owners, car owners exist on a \$12000 p.a aged pension. (assessed as per Television being 25% of the average wage) We married, after years of violence, gambling, drinking, abuse, in our 40's when the kids left home, we also left. There was no marriage settlement, so we worked any jobs, hoping to achieve the Great Australian Dream, our own house, and security for our old age, when superannuation commenced, there was no way, or hope, of ever getting a big self supporting pension, or pay at. We worked, & we got our homes & we paid them off & then we got old and no longer employable

We get \$12 000 a year, as singles, we pay out of that what couples pay for but get a hell of a lot more pension.

The rates, insurances for our homes, possession car, we have house + car maintenance, Electricity, phone, car rego, and petrol.

We shop carefully, well enough to feed ourselves, we peruse op shops for clothes, shoes, gifts, household replacements. Luxuries like the odd cup of coffee, cinema, haircuts, are a rarity.

We get no rent assistance. How great to get that extra money to pay towards the necessary bills. My rates + insurance

even with Council rebates, are still over \$2000 a year. That knocks my useable pension down to \$10 000 a

Year. to survive on + pay for the items listed. We are the forgotten aussies.

We were never paid by the Government to have children, nor were we enticed by

whopping big incentives. We had them, fed, reared, educated them, because that

was what it was like. We also worked, not only as housewives, mothers, carers,

educators, nurses, taxi service, fund raisers, the list goes on forever, we also

worked full time. And we paid our taxes. Due to our ages, the security of superannuation

did not give us a nice secure amount of money

When we were too old to be employed.
You will note, I said not when we left
work - just too old to be employed.

I met you, Mr Howard when I was
working in Tourism in the Outrigger Hotel
Mooloolaba. I was the lady who walked
past your car, singing at "Hi Mr Howard!
You followed me into the office. I worked
at that job, even though I was of
pensionable age, until I was no longer
required.

Couples obtaining almost twice the
amount of pension, that we receive, in
my opinion can live well.

Singles don't, but we absorb the same
costs

Your \$102 one off - what an insult, will
allow me to get a haircut, a pair
of shoes from Target/Kmart, and a
cup of coffee

You have no idea of the real world of the
single pensioner. We have worked
our butts off over the years, and well
and truly paid our way.

Put yourselves in our position, and you
can thank your lucky stars, you are
not one of the forgotten Australians
living well below the poverty line.

My friends and I sincerely hope you
will reply to this letter, and better still,
hope that the large amount you have in the

Kitty, we can be considered worthy
of a better deal with our pension

Sincerely,

Rosamund Taylor.

WARREN TRUSS MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay



Minister for Trade
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

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Wt/cw

13 July 2007

Mrs Rosemary Taylor

Dear Mrs Taylor

I refer to our telephone conversation earlier this week regarding the financial difficulties faced by single pensioners and your concerns about the relativity of the pension paid to single pensioners compared to the combined income of couples.

I can understand your concerns that fixed costs such as housing, motor vehicle, insurance etc are the same for single pensioners living alone and couples. I agree that these costs seem to be rising at a higher rate than the cost of items such as food and clothing where two people living together use more.

As mentioned during our telephone conversation, for many years couples received double the single rate of pension, but the rules were changed in 1963 in recognition of the simple fact that two people living together can live more cheaply than two people living separately. The relativity of the two rates has remained largely stable since that time. But I am not aware of any detailed studies which support the current relativity.

As promised, I have therefore written to the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Mal Brough MP, about the issue of pension relativity. I have pointed out to him the substantial disparity which now exists between the two rates and asked him to consider some additional support for pensioners living alone.

I will write to you again when I receive a response from Mr Brough.

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Working for Wide Bay

You may be interested to know that the Senate has commenced an Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians. I enclose for your information a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. They are broad enough to cover the issue of relativity between the single and married pension rates. You may wish to consider making a submission to the Inquiry outlining some of your own personal experiences and the issues raised during our telephone conversation. You will note the closing date for the receipt of submissions is the 20th July. However, Senate Committees usually accept late submissions. I would encourage you to make your views known to this Committee of Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Truss', written in a cursive style.

WARREN TRUSS
Federal Member for Wide Bay
Minister for Trade