

The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Reference: - Cost of Living Pressure on Retirees

Dear Secretary

This submission is to highlight areas that require attention by the Federal Government regarding age pensioners.

- 1.0 The present base age pension is only 25% of the average weekly earnings in Australia.  
This amount is now totally inadequate with the daily escalation of living costs and is severely impacting on the living standards of older Australians.  
Serious consideration should be given to raise the pension to at least 35% of the Australian average weekly earnings.
- 2.0 With rents escalating daily the pension rent assist threshold is now totally inadequate, with many people now having to cover the widening gap from their ever diminishing pension.  
This threshold needs to be reviewed and increased to be in line with today's high rents.
- 3.0 In Australia if an aged pensioner is engaged in some type of casual work they totally lose their pension during the period worked.  
Consideration should seriously be given to do what they do both in the UK and in New Zealand, where people on an age pension can in fact do casual work with no loss of their pension during the period of this work.  
This would be a major boost to age pensioners in Australia and would also reduce the pressure for them to deal with the ever increasing daily costs.
- 4.0 The Seniors card in West Australia is not recognized in the Eastern States of Australia. It should be made that senior's cards are recognized and accepted in all of the states of Australia.
- 5.0 People in the workforce get a leave loading for their annual leave. Maybe pensioner's should have a system where by they get a lump sum payment to assist them with a holiday each year.
- 6.0 Re visit the present changes to super to verify that the changes do not disadvantage older Australian's already using their super to supplement their income.

Yours Sincerely

Geoff Ball

