

The Chairman

22 August 2007

Senate Community Affairs Committee

I understand the Committee is to inquire
now into, among other things, adverse effects
on older Australians especially financial ones.

You will be aware that the Senate
Select Committee on Superannuation and
another Senate Select Committee recommended
tying DFDB and CAS pensions to AWE growth
not CPI which eroded the Government's servants
(uniformed and other) against all other pensions.
As a Reserve vet and subsequent Commonwealth
Public Servant, I get a double whammy.

The first named Committee above documented
the unfairness of the nexus ~~between~~^{of} CPI indexation
and both recommended AWE indexation. It
seems the cost of AWE indexation won out over the
unfairness of retaining CPI.

Perhaps some relief could be provided to
older superannuants by a phased approach whereby
on 1 Jan 08, those over 80 could be put onto AWE and
on 1 Jan 09, those over 79 and so on.

Another concern is the ^{financial income} limit for senior health cards
which has not been indexed upwards since inception.

Medical and Dental costs are rising steeply. Today my
wife was charged \$418 for one tooth filling.

Yours sincerely
Sybil (S. S. O'NEILL) OAM, BSc, FCPA