

Bruce Morrice,



Senate Inquiry,

Dear Sir's & Madam's,

In a recent letter I received from Senator Joe Ludwig he advised me to address my concerns relating to the poor deal the current Commonwealth Government is dealing out too pensioners, this letter came to me as a reply to a letter that I sent to him regarding this matter. I have endeavored to send the same letter to all current serving members of parliament as well as the Prime Minster direct.

I must say that the few reply's I have received have been to say the least disappointing and they are mainly too advise me that they have passed the letter on to somebody else.

In the letter I received form Mr. Ludwig he said quote "At our recent national conference, Labor endorsed the following as a key part of our policy platform: Labor remains committed to providing adequate income support for those who need it. Labor will:

- [1] Maintain the benchmark of maximum single adult rates of pension to at least 25 per-cent of male total average weekly earnings;
- [2] Ensure basic rates are indexed at least twice a year in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index; and
- [3] Ensure that those whose only income is provided through the social security system will not have to pay income tax".

I notice that all of these three points have already been enacted by the current government.

I wish to propose that the senate inquiry, in all seriousness, consider a significant increases to all pension payments.

I would like to take up a little of your time and look at these two points individually;

It seems to me that if you take an average of any given set of numbers the resulting figure can not be less than the lowest figure, so if the lowest paid worker receives approx. \$500 per-week why do we receive approx \$250 per-week.

In a letter sent to Mr. Ian Macfarlane from Dr. Sharmen Stone she states that " in line with this legislation, on 20 March this year, the single rate of pension rose by \$13.00 to \$525.10 per fortnight, while the partnered rate of pension rose by \$10.80 to \$438.50 per fortnight". The Labor Party is proposing nothing more than what we are currently receiving. I can not buy much with \$10.80 can you?

I have enclosed my previous correspondence to Mr. Howard and the serving M.L.A's in which I have explained the problems we are facing.

I hope you consider my concerns when you make your recommendations

Yours Sincerely

*B. Morrice*  
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Bruce Morrice. C O A.

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BRUCE C. MORRICE,

TO MR. Kevin Rudd,  
PARLIMENT HOUSE,  
CANBERRA, ACT.

Dear Mr, Kevin Rudd,

I recently wrote a letter too our Prime Minister informing him of what I think of the third world conditions facing our fellow Australians who are living on the pittance given to us under Centre Link assistance being the Disability Support Pension. Somebody in the P.M.'s office has read this letter and sent me a reply advising me that the letter was passed on too you. Since that time the treasurer has brought down the budget for the next financial year, in this new budget money was thrown around with gay abandon age pensioner's were thrown a miserly \$600 as some sort of gift those on a career pension a crumby \$ 1,000 but when it came to those living on a Disability Support Pension there was a deafening silence nothing not one cent for those who are on this type of support anyway this not the way to fix the serious financial problem we are experiencing. It feels to me that you don't care at all and you are sitting on your fat arse in Parliament House and think that you can mend a broken arm with a band aid. It's just not good enough we are sinking so far down that the only way we will be able to live in a manner that is anywhere near the way of life everyone else in Australia lives is our pension would have too be doubled if you think I am exaggerating come here and see for yourself go to the streets of any of major cities where you will find our youth living on the streets this is absolutely unacceptable if our great country is too carry on we need too help these kids live as human beings and not be treated like dirt. Would you like to see your kid's living like that. And it's not just the younger people in our great land there are many older people living on the street. I was visiting one of our major cities one day and saw first hand an old man foraging through a garbage can, I felt so ashamed that in this land of plenty a man was forced to live on the street, I wanted so much to help but could not.

When I wrote to the P.M. I dared him to come and live at our house so he would know for himself just how much people in our situation are struggling I also throw the challenge out too you come live at our house for one month you'll soon find out how difficult the situation is.

I hope you read this yourself and take the proper course to change what has been neglected for so long, I can not remember the last time that our pension was increased,

I am not the kind of person that complains and writes to the people who we have elected but both my Wife and I have reached the place where we can not take any more, We both are for ever worried about how we can pay our bills, this in turn damages our health even more. Please remember we vote too with a lot of other people just like us and in the conditions in which we live. **Our Votes Do Count Don't THEY.**

I hope you read this letter yourself and take the appropriate action.

Yours Sincerely

B. Morrice

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BRUCE C. MORRICE,

TO MR. JOHN HOWARD,  
PARLIMENT HOUSE,  
CANBERRA, ACT.

Dear Mr <sup>How</sup> Brough,

I am writing to too tell you exactly how much your fellow Australians are hurting financially. People who for one reason or another and no fault of their own can not work or have retired, My wife and I are just two who find themselves in this position. We are both in receipt of a Disability Support Pension [D.S.P.] and are grateful that we receive this assistance from the Federal Government but this money we receive never seems to be enough to pay for the things we need every fortnight. A few months ago I saw you on the T.V. and you stated that the average Australian worker was receiving \$900 per week in his or her pay packet which made me wonder that if this is true how can my wife and I be expected to live on a fraction of this amount. For example we receive between us approximately \$1000 per fortnight that is \$500 each per fortnight which equals \$250 each per week where is the rest of our!!!! \$900 per week.

From this money we receive we have to pay our rent, our car loan, our Chemist account, our credit card, our phone bills, our electricity, petrol for the car, car insurance, car rego, car repairs/ maintenance and our funeral insurance then if there is any left over we can think about groceries. I think that it is about time that you and your government did something about correcting the anomalies that exist and give pensioners a sizable increase in funding.

The Australian Government and the Australian people send much money to over seas countries who are in need. you loan money to other countries in need but when it comes to looking after your own we are 4TH class Australians. We do not get the assistance needed too sustain us at the same level as our fellow Aussies.

My Wife and I donate money if there is a natural disaster some where in the world. When they can be helped in the way of financial assistance. We are happy to help in this way. We do not expect to live like millionaires but we do not expect to live like fourth class Australians either, We at times feel like you are treating us like dirt. You must remember Mr. Howard that there is a great number of pensioners out here in the same position as us and we too vote keep this in mind when you start campaigning. I know that there are a lot of other pensioners that would be in agreeance with the issues that I have touched on in this letter.

I challenge You and your Wife too come and live as we do paying all our bills etc, with no extra financial help than the pension as we are doing. and we will live on your pay for the month and I will show you how to run the country.

I hope you take the time to read this letter your self and not let one of your staff read it for you we need help fast.

Yours Sincerely

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