

Mr Ellen Humphrey,
Dear Sir,

I received an answer to my letter to Mr Rudd. He has requested I make a submission to your organisation. It appears you are looking at the costs of living for us older Australians!

A. Petrol. Has been \$1.30 now for many months. Without a vehicle we are legless. I have a small Toyota Echo which requires \$45 to fill. Usually once a month depending on medical appointments, shopping etc.

B. Rates. Water Rates
Land Rates

Electricity - This is always the lottery. Summer - need to use fans or Air Con to cope with the heat.

Winter - we older folk feel the cold and it is a known fact, winter causes many deaths. So again heating our homes is vital.

C. Clothing. New garments are a real luxury.

D. Food. Depending where you live. If only W.W & Coles then you really are taken to the cleaners.

Aldi's do offer a much cheaper means of shopping and they stock a wide range

of goods. A poll today 2nd July was
announced on the radio.

Coles 108% } For the same or
W.W. 95% } similar basket
Aldi 55% } of items.

However many women (i.e) widows
often do not drive so they are not able to
shop around.

Meat is a real problem. A very
necessary item for elderly people but is
virtually out of our reach. Even lamb, pig
or tripe, mince, sausages - a little goes
a long way and is not really liked by
many.

Fruit & Vegetables, prices are
ridiculous & I for one will not under
any circumstances buy imported stuff -
especially from Asian areas.

Fish, our dieticians tell us twice
a week. Well tinned is the only way and
again it's takes some finding to get what
I consider hasn't been grown or bred
in certain areas.

The other issue which must be
raised is RENT. For those poor souls,
who have to pay rent, their situation is
appalling. As I have done my homework.
I thank God have always owned my home.
Worked 2 jobs to pay for them. I worked
in the Nursing industry for 40 years. As
Director of Nursing my pay was less than the Cook.

Superannuation was almost non-existent.
Certainly no way, no matter how carefully
it was invested - and that is a hornets nest -
the money would not last us out.

Single widows, Single Widowers.
Single people who have never married, we
are the folk who are hit the hardest.

On two incomes, there is a
chance to live a reasonable 'normal' life
but on the Single Pension it is a hand
& mouth struggle.

Car: Petrol; Maintenance; Repairs, Tyres.
Batteries Insurance, & so on

Home & Contents Insurance.

Telephone - a vital commodity.

I hope that the committee looks at this
existence that so many have to live.

Going to the pictures, the theatre, out to
a Dinner etc. are out of the picture.

Yours Sincerely
Winifred O'Shea.