

To whom it May Concern.

I am writing to express my views regarding the aged pension. I retired after a 45 yr career of nursing, at the age of 66 yrs. I am appalled to find that pensioners and the disabled have such a poor amount to live on, \$13,000 a year and still pay the GST on every item we purchase. In 1988 Superannuation was brought in, sadly too late for Baby Boomers like myself. The small amount of Superannuation I paid off on my home, was taxed while you cannot it while it was being held in a Super fund and again when you retired in a lump sum. I am pretty good at managing on a small income, having lost my late husband at 46 yrs of age, and bringing up four Australian children on a nurses pay. I am also a British child migrant, today with the cost of food rising, petrol and other costs. A single aged pensioner gets \$500 dollars per fortnight, quite often after paying telephone electricity accounts trying to run a small car, etc one has only \$120 or less sometimes to live on. John Howard has just accepted a \$20,000 dollar pay increase, this has given him a pay increase of twice the amount I get to live on. I like many others can no longer afford what the cost is too high even the humble pies, Sausages have increased in price, same fruit is too expensive. Australia is a rich country but the elderly are treated like 2nd class citizens after all the years we've

Worked, paid our taxes, and Brought-up our kids
without the amount of Money Being paid for child
Care, pregnancy Bonus and Very small allowance
of child endowment. We are living like Paupers
it is a national disgrace, that the elderly get
pushed to the Back of waiting lists when needing
operations etc. I did write to John Howard
who was too Busy his letter from his Secretary
told me. This is the Man who expects me and
thousands of other elderly Pensioners & disabled to vote
for him, when he doesn't have our any interest
in our health and welfare. I am a Labor
Supporter and have been all my working years.
Federal Labor leader "Kevin Rudd" wrote to me
in answer to a letter I wrote him regarding the above
Concerns, he suggested I write to the Senate inquiry.
I wish the Labor party every Success in the Joint
Caring Election, and May We Win the Campaign
in 2007

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Janet Hestwood