

12.2.08.

Dear Senator,

I was pleased to read in the paper that you were heading an inquiry into cost of living for Pensioners etc, and I wondered if I could draw your attention to a matter that I feel is a gross injustice to ^{some} pensioners, namely those who receive part of their pension from another country, and part from an Australian (age) pension.

For example my husband who is a naturalised Australian, spent the first 40 years of his life in New Zealand, & was granted an ^{australian} age pension to begin with, then was advised he had to apply to N.Z. also & that he would not be financially disadvantaged by this.

He did apply (this is the law) & now receives a part pension from each country which adds up to the full pension. This is okay, however,

Centrelink deems the N.Z. pension is "income", & as pensioners are only allowed to earn a certain amount of income before it decreases the amount of pension received.

Therefore he is immediately going to lose money as half his pension is already deemed as income.

I would like to see this changed, so that the N.Z. part is not deemed as income. No other Australians have part of their pensions called "income".

He should not be disadvantaged because he spent half of his working life in N.Z. and half in Australia, in fact, this is paying the Australia's government money so it should not be to his detriment.

I do hope you can right this wrong & I thank you in anticipation.

Yours truly
Mr. Williams