

Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir

Re: Submission

As my wife and I are both aged pensioners I would like to make my submission to the Inquiries. To begin with I would like to thank Mr. Rudd for initiating the Inquiry and the PM for supporting it. The following are my submissions:-

(01) As the base pension has not been increased for a long time it must be increased to 1/2 of the maximum single income of the middle Australians. To relate the pension to 1/4 of the maximum single income of the middle Australians is no longer viable. People's wages have surged higher and higher and the cost of things has shot up through the roof. Therefore the pension must be increased to a comfortable label.

(02) The prices of all the basic items such as meat, eggs, fruits, milk and bread etc have increased about 7 folds but not the pension, hence it got to increase too.

(03) The cost of petrol per barrel in 1988 was \$9:00 and the cost of the same petrol is now \$71:11 (03/07/07) a barrel- about 8 times higher. Because the oil is used in the production of every thing that we consume daily, the prices have gone through the roof.
How on earth can the pensioners make their ends meet?

Please do some thing. The only way you can help is to increase the pension as suggested above.

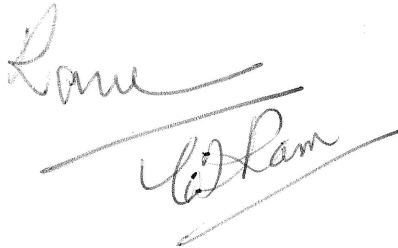
(04) If a pensioner has worked over seas and receives foreign pension as well as Australian, his pension must not be reduced by comparing the two pensions because both are his rights. He worked and sweated for both of them. The rights must never be tempered with. He should get both in full to help him live a slightly better life.

(05) Apart from the above the country has very healthy surpluses, because of the booming mining Industry and the Federal Parliamentarian have got yet another increase in their salaries. Then why not the pensioners? These are the most desperate lot and must be given a rise in their pensions.

(06) All the workers of the entire country *but the pensioners* have been getting tax cuts over and above their annual increments and cost of living adjustments, therefore the pensioners must now get a rise in their pensions. *It's only fare and imperative that they get the rise to keep pace with the higher cost of living in this country of ours.*

Thank you very much for reading my submissions.

Sincerely yours
Tula Ram and
Chandra Wati Ram (wife)

Handwritten signatures of Tula Ram and Chandra Wati Ram. The signature 'Tula Ram' is written in cursive above a horizontal line. Below it, the signature 'Chandra Wati Ram' is written in cursive, also above a horizontal line.