The Secretary

We are elderly Australians living in a Retirement Village. I am 76 years of age and my wife is 70 years old. We both held prestige positions during our Business lives, I as a State Manager in the Solar Water Heating Industry and my wife was the Manager of one of our largest suburban Shopping Centres.

We planed carefully for our Retirement yet we find now that the insidious rising cost of the basic commodities has now forced us to downgrade our expected lifestyle and to live rather frugally on our Pensions.

We have a large family ,three sons and one daughter and all are spread over distant parts of NSW and Queensland. Regular trips were made to keep in touch we all our families, but the cost of Petrol has now restricted our visits. So we no longer see and visit our Grandchildren as often as they and we would like. Even travel by State Rail has has been curtailed due to the NSW State Government increasing our Pensioner cost that now restricts us financially.

Food prices have jumped so much that now days we cancel out the little luxuries and only buy necessities.

We strive to continue in a Private Health Fund as we know how big a difference there is between basic health cover and Private Cover. At our age we need the back-up.

Government Dental Health assistance is a rare find and impossible for people our age.

As the Federal Government continue to sell off all our Government assets to Private Enterprise we find hefty price increases follow and this directly affects our Pensioner rate buying power. We personally feel that Australian Pensioners have become the whipping boys for the Government in its efforts to save money and balance their budget.

For example Meat prices continue to rise ,as does Bread , Milk and other staple foods. Our pension dollar buys so much less today.

Like most elderly Australians we feel that the Government has deserted us at a time when we should be enjoying the fruits of our years of paying taxes, of raising families and doing our bit for our Country.

Peter and Janice Groves